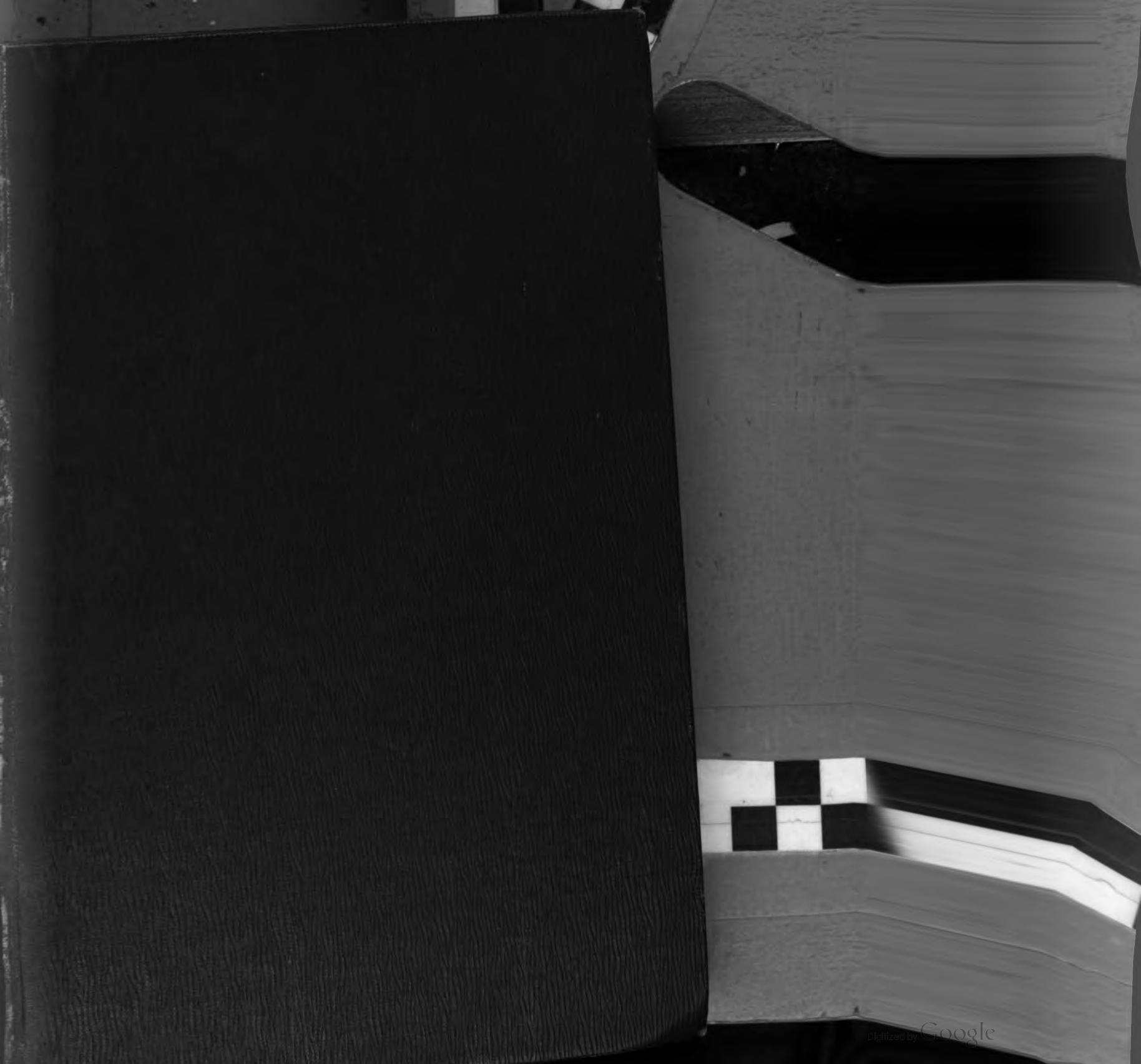
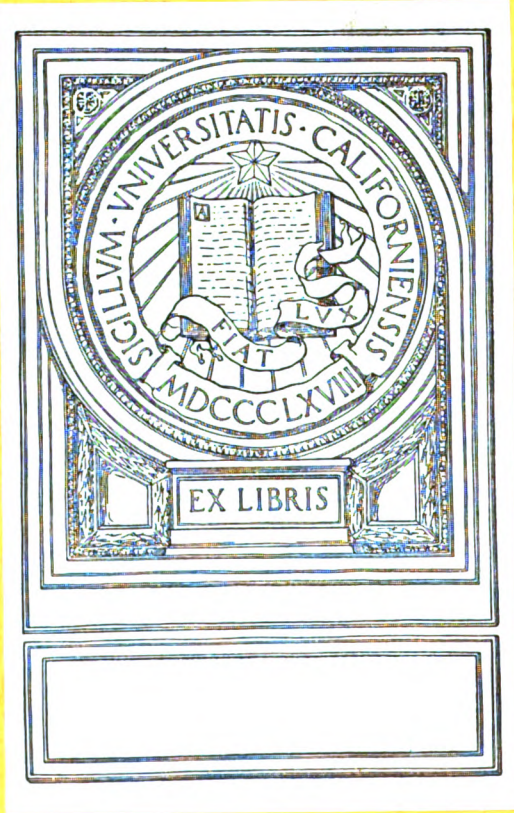

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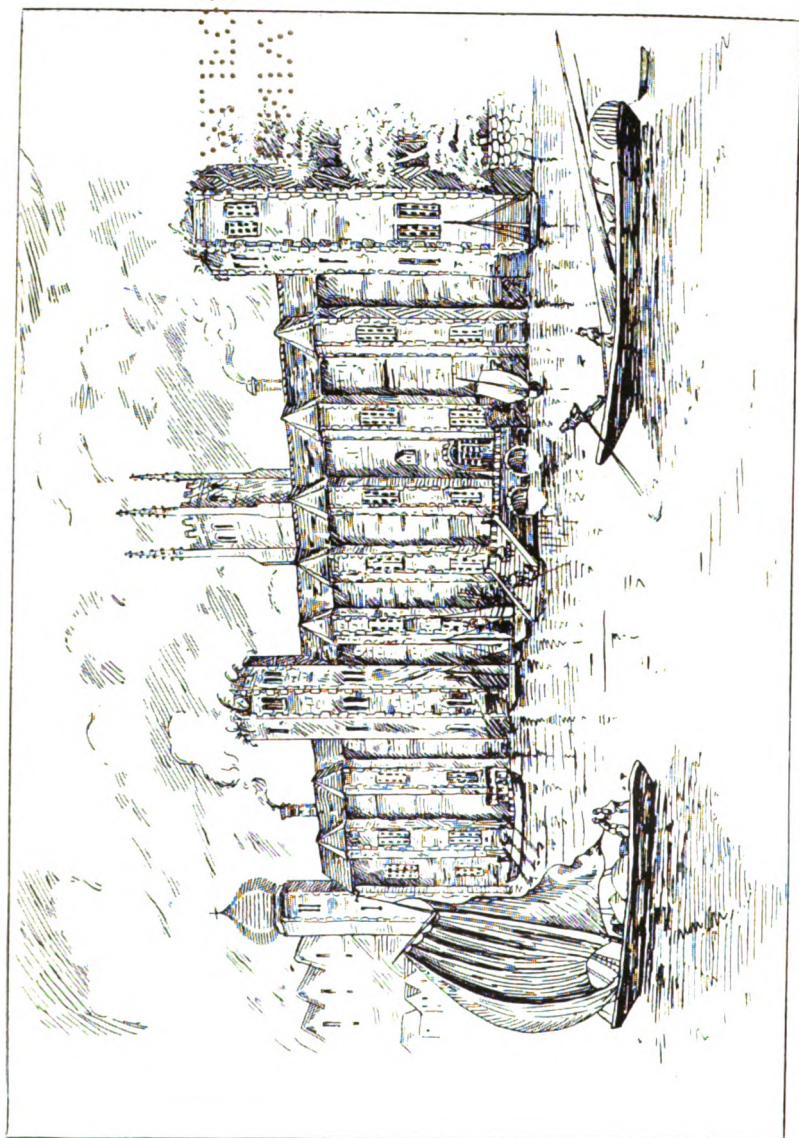




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CASTLE BAYNARD IN THE 17TH CENTURY

The present Chief Office of the Post Office Savings Bank is situate in the Ward of Castle Baynard and is partly on the site of the Royal Palace.

[from the Christmas Card of the Post Office Savings Bank

Frontispiece

ST. MARTIN'S-LE-GRAND.

"



ST. MARTIN'S-LE-GRAND, 1877.

VOLUME XI.

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ST. MARTIN'S-LE-GRAND

JANUARY, 1901.

The Post Office and the Volunteer Movement.

OLUNTEER soldiers have on many occasions armed themselves for the defence of their own soil. History records how London men volunteered and fought for Edward III. in France ; for Richard II. in protecting the Thames from pirates ; for Henry V. against the hostile forces attacking the City, and in many stout fights under Elizabeth and during the Civil War. As, however, the first Government Letter Post was not established until the reign of James I., it is obvious that Post Office officials cannot be included in the ranks of these early fighters. It is not even possible to find any authentic record of such officials being included in the loyal volunteers of London raised in 1798 when Great Britain was busy fighting in most parts of the world and the country was consequently denuded of regular troops ; but there is little reason to doubt that the Office contributed its quota to the huge number temporarily enrolled in 1802, when an Act was passed authorising the raising of Volunteer and Yeomanry Corps. The country was at the time threatened with invasion by Napoleon, and the sturdy patriotism of Englishmen showed well to the front. The spirit of volunteering and of energy in military preparations spread all over the country and in a short time upwards of 400,000 men were enrolled. The Excise and Customs Departments were strongly represented at this time, but the smallness of the major staff of the General Post Office at this early period probably accounts for no large body of men representing it officially. In 1804 a measure was passed consolidating and amending the Acts relating to Yeomanry and Volunteers, and this is the Act under which the Yeomanry of Great Britain are now raised and serve. Before the present Volunteer Force was called into existence many Post Office officials were members of the Honourable Artillery Company, and the original formation of the Post Office detachment of this ancient corps included men of the highest official rank. After Waterloo, the foot volunteers fell almost entirely into abeyance, but in 1859, in consequence of the feeling respecting the hostile tone of the French and the

defenceless state of the country, they revived chiefly as rifle volunteers. During the great outburst of patriotism in 1858-9 a meeting was held in the old General Post Office, and in 1859, when the Volunteer Force, which now forms a permanent factor in our military organization came into existence, a corps was quickly raised from the clerical establishments of the various Departments of the Office, the members of which, judging from its subsequent development and success, we may justly regard as worthy descendants of the old fighting and military men of the Metropolis.

That the movement was a general one is indicated by the following official notice which was issued in November, 1859 :—

VOLUNTEER RIFLE CORPS.

Inquiries having been made whether the Postmaster-General has any objection to Officers of the Department joining the Volunteer Rifle Corps now in course of formation in different parts of the Country, His Lordship directs that it may be made generally known that he not only sees no objection to such a proceeding, when it does not interfere with the performance of an Officer's ordinary duties, but that he regards it as highly praiseworthy

By Command of the Postmaster-General.

ROWLAND HILL,

Secretary

GENERAL POST OFFICE.
November, 1859

To the Post Office and Audit Office belong the honour of forming the first Civil Service Corps. Whether its inception was due to the initiative of the members of the former cannot be stated, but certainly the latter rather rushed matters, and this perhaps may account for only two Departments being represented. The Corps was known as the 21st Middlesex and consisted of three Companies. The first members who signed the roll were Messrs. J. L. Du Plat Taylor and J. J. Cardin, an interesting fact, when it is remembered that it is to the efforts of these gentlemen that much of the success connected with the volunteer movement in the Post Office is due.

In January of the following year the first Council Meeting of Civil Service Volunteers was held, each Corps sending two representatives. The General Post Office was represented by Captain Harrington and Mr. T. Angell (late Postmaster of the South Western District). It was decided, on the latter gentleman's proposition, that the Corps should be entitled the Civil Service Rifle Brigade. It would seem from a perusal of the early records of the Committee meetings that an inordinate amount of vanity was exhibited with regard to the colour and style of the uniform. For instance, Captain Harrington seconded a proposition "that the trousers be of a moderate peg-top pattern with stripe of the same braid as the tunic." This did not accord with Mr. Angell's idea of things, for he proposed as an amendment that "a black welt or seam" be substituted for the words "stripe of the same braid as the tunic." The amendment was, however, lost. The question of ornaments, too, was a matter that took up the time of several meetings, and the decision of the Council was so different from the views held by the Customs Corps that their Secretary wrote "that they declined to adopt the ornaments on the belts as decided upon by the Council and that they would, therefore, have no participation in the arrangement of the Civil Service Regiment"—and they did not.

Even honorary members, including several who occupied leading official positions, had a weakness in this direction, for they rarely turned up on parade without availing themselves of the privilege of wearing a uniform with a scarlet sash as a distinguishing ornament.

The Post Office Company, which included Anthony Trollope and Edmund Yates (ensign), first paraded with the Civil Service Regiment at Somerset House on the 28th March, 1860. On this occasion they were in mufti and without weapons, but in the following week they paraded in uniform and under arms. A week later the first "march out" took place at Wimbledon under most

adverse meteorological conditions and was made historical by Captain Angell's sketch, a photograph of which hangs in the orderly room of the Civil Service Rifles. Volunteering was expensive in those days, as it is recorded that this march cost each man ten shillings.

The early drills in the square of Somerset House were not particularly successful owing to a regular staff not being appointed. Captain Emnis, of the Inland Revenue, who had at one time seen service in a cavalry regiment, was the only regimental officer considered capable of taking command on these occasions. There are



CAPTAIN ANGELL'S SKETCH OF THE FIRST "MARCH OUT"
OF THE CIVIL SERVICE RIFLES.

still members of the Post Office who can remember the gallant captain's attempts to perform cavalry evolutions with his infantry battalion of recruits, with results that were not always satisfactory and instructive. However, with Lord Bury in command, the Post Office and other companies were by dint of hard work licked into shape before the end of the year. This was only to be expected with so much enthusiasm and almost continuous daily drill. The Post Office Company with the Civil Service attended the first grand Volunteer Review before the Queen in Hyde Park in 1860.

By the end of 1860 the General Post Office was represented in the Civil Service Corps by 133 enrolled members, but of these only sixty had fully qualified themselves as effective members. While the other companies of the Civil Service included men holding the

highest official appointments, the Post Office ranks had been recruited with one or two exceptions from the junior officers of the service. This was specially pointed out in the first annual report issued by Frank Ives Scudamore, Chairman of the Committee of Management in February, 1861; and an appeal was made to the "good feeling and esprit de corps of the officers of the Post Office" for an accession of strength from among the higher classes. The movement had received financial help and encouragement from all classes on the major establishment. The Postmaster-General granted the use of a convenient room which was appropriated as an armoury, and the various heads of departments afforded facilities to the members of the corps upon several occasions by allowing them leave of absence for the purpose of attending drills and general parades. At this time no grant was given by the Government to the volunteers, so the regimental funds were provided for by a pro-rata contribution from the several companies, which amounted in the first year to 18s. 8½d. per man.

It should be mentioned that in addition to drilling in Somerset House the Post Office companies were able, through the courtesy of Archdeacon Hale, to use the Charterhouse Grounds, and at other times the Worshipful Court of the Barbers' Company permitted drills to take place in the Hall of their Company. The corps was fortunate in possessing a convenient shooting range at Wimbledon. Company prizes were competed for, and other prizes open to the Post Office members were the Whitworth Rifle, given by the Artists' Corps as a mark of appreciation for some kindness received at the hands of the Civil Service Corps, and a Ladies' Challenge Cup subscribed for by ladies interested in the corps. The Post Office Corps received great assistance from its energetic honorary secretary, Mr. Charles Potter, and equally zealous honorary treasurer, Mr. Christie Thomson.

In the following three years there was a considerable falling off, the members being reduced to 117, 99, and 102 respectively. Whether this was due to the purchase of a "set of amputating instruments kept at the range, £4 4s.," by the corps' doctor, cannot be ascertained, but certainly very few members turned up to brave the perils of a sham fight held by the Metropolitan Volunteers at Bromley on the 14th July, and it was afterwards explained in Orders that "many members of the regiment had resolved not to come on account of the danger to be apprehended from the inexperience of their comrades in firing drill."

All ranks were eager to become perfect in musketry drill, and a staff of volunteer instructors was accordingly raised to instruct the other members of the regiment. At their head was Captain Du Plat Taylor; and other well known officials of the Post Office who passed the first examination as company instructors were:— Sergeant J. J. Cardin (now Comptroller and Accountant-General), Sergeant Potter, and Corporal Churchill (late Accountant A.G.D.).

The first officers appointed to the Post Office companies were:— In B Company, N. H. Harrington (Captain), T. W. Angell (Lieutenant), and Edmund Yates (Ensign).

In C Company:—J. L. Du Plat Taylor (Captain), W. A. Dewar, (Lieutenant), and G. Dumeldenger, Ensign. Other prominent members of the division in its infancy were Messrs. J. J. Cardin, S. Walliker, T. Churchill, C. W. Potter, E. S. Adams, E. Walker and F. Salisbury, father of the present Postmaster of Liverpool.

Volunteers of the present day will be surprised to learn that senior officers in command of the Post Office Companies had power to inflict the following fines:—

	s.	d
For talking in the ranks	1	0
For loading without orders or firing out of turn	2	6
For discharging a rifle without orders or <i>accidentally</i>	5	0
For having a rifle at full cock without orders	5	0
For pointing a rifle loaded or unloaded at any person	10	0
For every day a rifle is kept after the day fixed for returning it to the Armoury ...	1	0

It is equally curious to read that enrolled members were permitted to wear swords with black scabbards when *off parade*, and that the "sergeants having adopted a pouch and shoulder belt which is not in accordance with the regulations, the Council will not object to such being worn on *ordinary occasions*, but they will be expected to wear the regulation belt and pouch at all Inspections and Reviews."

In June, 1860, it was announced that the Secretary of State for War approved of the amalgamation of the 27th, 31st, and 34th with the 21st Middlesex, and that the Corps would in future be allowed to bear the title of the Civil Service Corps of Rifle Volunteers. At the same time it was stated that Her Majesty had approved of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales being Honorary Colonel to the regiment. About that time Viscount Bury accepted

the command of the regiment. Post Office men continued to take a prominent part in the affairs of the Corps. Captain Du Plat Taylor received the thanks of the Council "for the great energy and ability with which he has conducted the Musketry Instruction of the Regiment." Mr. S. Walliker did good work on the Finance and Band Committees, and also acted as treasurer and subsequently became the first Quartermaster to the Regiment.

Although at this time the Post Office companies were drilling almost daily, some of the members found time to take an active part in the social festivities connected with the Corps. As an instance of their



A GROUP, INCLUDING CAPTAIN LOMBARD, IN THE FIRST UNIFORM WORN BY THE MEMBERS OF THE CIVIL SERVICE RIFLES.

energy in this direction it may be mentioned that on May 22nd, 1861, under the patronage of their Honorary Colonel, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, K.G., a dramatic performance was given at the Lyceum Theatre; and it is interesting to record that an original comedietta, "If the Cap Fits," written by Captain Harrington and Ensign Edmund Yates of the Post Office companies, was acted with considerable success. The principal piece, however, was an original comedy written by Captain Tom Taylor, of the Local Government Act Office, entitled "A Lesson for Life." Important parts were played by Captain J. Du Plat Taylor, Lieutenant Dewar, Lieutenant T. Angell, and Ensign Edmund Yates of the Post Office. In this piece Mr. W. S. Gilbert (then a Lieutenant in the Corps) played the part of an undergraduate, and the three leading ladies were Mrs. Stirling, Miss Ellen Terry, and Miss Kate Terry.

Matters improved in 1864 and 1865, the number of Post Office representatives in the latter year being 165 out of a total strength of 479. This increase in the number of recruits was largely due, no doubt, to the great interest taken in the Corps by the Prince of Wales, who in the year of his marriage presented the Civil Service with a Challenge Cup of the value of 100 guineas. On the 7th March the regiment took part in the parade of the Metropolitan Volunteers in Hyde Park on the arrival of the Princess Alexandra in London, and was granted the post of honour on the right of the line. Another reason perhaps for this increase of strength was the payment of an annual capitation grant by the Government for every efficient member who completed three company and six battalion drills. Although the grant was a £1 per head only, it helped to reduce the number of calls which were made from time to time to meet the expenses of the Corps.

Old members of the Post Office companies remember with pleasure Captain Lombard, who became Acting Adjutant in March, 1864, and for the long period of 22 years signed the regimental orders; they also remember the consternation created by his first order which contained the following paragraph:—

“The Post Office companies will proceed to Harrow on Saturday, 24th inst., to join in a field day with the Harrow School and other corps. Each member to provide himself with twenty rounds of ball cartridge.”

Two days *after* the review was held the following correction was issued:—

“In the order of the 17th inst., the words ‘Ball cartridge’ should have been ‘Blank cartridge.’”

Perhaps Captain Lombard was anxious to test the capabilities of the corps’ surgeons!

It will be seen from the following lists of names recorded in the muster rolls of the companies for 1865 that the corps was well supported by all departments of the Post Office.

CIVIL SERVICE RIFLE VOLUNTEERS. POST OFFICE COMPANIES.
B COMPANY.

Rank and Name		Department	Rank and Name		Department
Captain Harrington	...	S.O.	Sigs. {	Burnaby, W. E.	... R.A.G.O.
Lieut. Angell	...	C.D.*		Churchill, Thos. (Mus-	
Ensign Yates	...	S.O.		ketry Instructor)	... M.O.O.
Potter, C. J. (Musketry	...			Badcock, J. C.	... M.O.
Instructor)	...	C.D.		Banks	... S.O.
Adams, E.S. (Musketry	...			Bell, J.	... M.O.O.
Instructor)	...	M.O.†		Brockwell, G. E.	... C.D.

* Circulation Department (now London Postal Service Department).

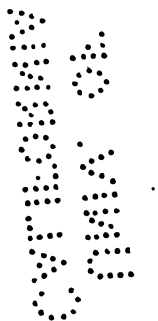
† Mail Office (abolished).

COL.-SERGT. DISHER. SERGT. BOND. SERGT. BELL. SERGT. BRAUN. SERGT. (now Lieut.) WHITEHURST.
 LCE.-CORPL. MEARS (C.I.V.). LCE.-CORPL. WATSON. PTE. CLIFFORD.



SOME MEMBERS OF "B" COMPANY UNDER CANVAS.

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Rank and Name	Department	Rank and Name	Department
Burt, G.	C.D.	Knott, G. G. (Corporal) ...	M.O.O.
Burt, R.	C.D.	Lawrence, F. (Bugler) ...	C.D.
Clarac, J. S.	C.D.	Letts, Samuel	C.D.
Collis, S.	R.A.G.O.	Lloyd, W.	C.D.
Conroy, M.	C.D.	Matthews, Richard	C.D.
Crump, Geo.	C.D.	Matthews, Robert	C.D.
Davis, H. (Corporal) ...	M.O.O.	Moran, W.	C.D.
De Fraine, P. W.	M.O.O.	Muloch, W. H.	C.D.
Edwards, W. J.	M.O.O.	Osborn, E. B.	Sol. O.
Edwards, W. J. F.	C.D.	Payne, P.	C.D.
Evans, W. F.	M.O.O.	Pennington, B.	M.O.O.
Farre, J. P.	M.O.	Pickering, E. H. N.	S.O.
Gill, W. H.	M.O.	Pitt, R. F.	C.D.
Goodwin, A.	R.A.G.O.	Prall, H.	M.O.O.
Gough, F. P.	C.D.	Read, F. E.	C.D.
Graburn, E. B.	R.A.G.O.	Read, W. J. W.	C.D.
Grey, W. H. (Corporal) ...	C.D.	Rees, W.	C.D.
Hawkins, J. T.	M.O.O.	Reeve, R. H.	M.O.O.
Hill, Pearson (Musketry Instructor)	S.O.	Roberts, T. L.	M.O.
Hill, R.	R.A.G.O.	Shepperd, H. J.	M.O.O.
Hooper, A. (Corporal) ...	R.A.G.O.	Smallwood, Wm.	C.D.
Howes, H.	M.O.	Vinall, A. T.	S.O.
Hughes, J.	C.D.	White, W. P.	C.D.
Jennings, J. P.	C.D.	Williams, A. J.	M.O.O.
Kearney, J. E.	M.O.O.	Williams, M.	M.O.O.
Kenney, J. N.	S.O.	Wootton, G.	M.O.

C COMPANY.

Rank and Name	Department	Rank and Name	Department
Captain Taylor	S.O.	Halstead, T. H.	B. of E.
Lieut. Dewar	S.O.	Hamilton, W.	C.D.
Ensign Dumeldenger	C.D.	Hampton, R. J.	R.A.G.O.
Cardin, J. J. (Musketry Instructor)	R.A.G.O.	Hay, M. D.	C.D.
Tyrrell, W. (Musketry Instructor)	B. of E.†	Hudson, J. H.	R.A.G.O.
Topping, S. W. (Musketry Instructor)	C.D.	Hulburd, T.	M.O.O.
Smyth, G. W. (Musketry Instructor)	S.O.	Hyde, J. C.	S.O.
Archibald, L. M.	C.D.	Jackson, F. R.	M.O.O.
Arnall, T.	C.D.	Johnson, David	C.D.
Barrand, M. P.	B. of E.	Johnstone, F. C.	R.A.G.O.
Belcher, J. W.	M.O.O.	Ker, C. S.	S.O.
Bond, R. C. C.	S.O.	Ker, Mark, W.	R.A.G.O.
Clarke, Richard	M.O.O.	Kirk, Edward	C.D.
Crossley, W. T.	B. of E.	Lacroix, W. G.	M.O.O.
Daly, M.	S.O.	Lander, G.	C.D.
Davies, R. Pigott	M.O.O.	Lovett, J. C.	C.D.
Deedes, F. G.	S.O.	Madgin, Joseph	M.O.O.
Eagar, H. T.	C.D.	Margetts, J. W.	M.O.O.
Elliman, T.	M.O.O.	Matthews, W.	C.D.
Farmer, W.	M.O.O.	Netting, R.	M.O.O.
Faull, E. T.	C.D.	Norris, H.	M.O.O.
Forster, Martin	B. of E.	Pennington, W. H.	R.P.O.
Gould, J.	C.W.	Perkins, H.	M.O.O.
Greatbach, T.	C.D.	Potter, C. W.	R.A.G.O.
		Ramsey, J. W. (Corporal) ...	S.O.
		Reelin, T. H.	C.D.
		Rolls, W. P.	C.D.
		Rose, C.	M.O.O.

† Bank of England.

Rank and Name	Department	Rank and Name	Department
Rudall, W....	... M.O.O.	Tucker, J. ...	... C.D.
Salisbury, F. (Corpora ¹)	... C.D.	Valentine, F. ...	... C.D.
Stamford, A. ...	... M.O.O.	Watkins, F....	... R.A.G.O.
Sweetnam, John ...	... S.O.	Welch, F. G. ...	... S.O.
Thomson, A. C. ...	... R.A.G.O.	Winch, B. V. ...	... S.O.
Tapp, George ...	... C.D.	Winter, E. ...	... Sol. O.
Thyer, G. ...	... C.D.		

Persistent efforts on the part of the officers and their subordinates were made to increase the efficiency of the company during the next two years. Unfortunately, in April, 1868, the company lost the services of Major Du Plat Taylor, one of the most energetic and capable officers of the corps. He had strict notions of discipline, which were not always in accord with the ideas of some of his more easy-going comrades, but his ability and energy were undoubted, and his retirement was a distinct loss. Considerable discussion took place when he issued a circular in 1864, in which he expressed a desire to raise a third company in the Post Office and afterwards form a separate battalion under his own command. His success as colonel of the 49th (now the 24th Middlesex) will form the subject of a future article.

For many years the work of the Post Office companies was much like the other divisions of the Civil Service Corps, the history of which has been admirably described in Major Merrick's book. It is to this work that the writer is indebted for much of the information contained in this article. In 1880 the War Office adopted a scheme for re-numbering the Middlesex corps, and the Civil Service became the 12th Middlesex. Under this title the Post Office companies shared with the regiment the honour of dining with their honorary colonel, the Prince of Wales, at Willis's Rooms, on 1st March, 1882; of marching past at the Portsmouth Review, with his Royal Highness as colonel in the uniform of the corps; and again in the Jubilee year of 1887, when the Prince, once more in the uniform of the corps, marched past the Queen at Buckingham Palace. Post Office members were also largely represented the same year at the great military review at Aldershot.

There has never been a lack of enthusiasm in the Post Office companies of the Civil Service Corps. In the early days members frequently devoted much time and money to become more efficient. It was quite usual to pay army instructors large sums for private instruction in the intricacies of infantry drill. Energetic members like Mr. Lachlan Maclean turned out as early as 4 a.m. in the winter and walked from the northern suburbs of London to the

Tower in order to drill with the Regulars at 5 a.m. Mr. Maclean was also an enthusiast with regard to the band. So much so that he drew upon his head official reproof for the noise his bandsmen made when practising during official hours in the old General Post Office. He, however, surmounted the difficulty by substituting old official ledgers for drums, and although from a musical point of view this left something to be desired, it was an effective means of training the drummers.

Captain T. W. Angell commanded B company from 1865 to 1876. Much of his history has already appeared in the Magazine. He was originally appointed to the Inland Office, and remained there until the outbreak of the Russian War, when he was sent to the Crimea as assistant Postmaster to the forces. His military experience in that capacity naturally made him a keen supporter of the Volunteer movement. It was one of the joys of his life to recount his experiences during his employment with the Regular Forces. He was inclined to carry the martial element into his official life, and consequently he was often regarded as a martinet. In 1876, when he resigned, the strength of the company had declined to 22. After his retirement the reduction in membership continued year by year until its members were necessarily merged in the ranks of C. Privates E. B. Parlour and C. H. Honeysett for many years remained the only two members of the company. During this time the sister company absorbed all the recruits, and stood about 150 strong.

In 1894 B company was resuscitated by redistributing the members of the two companies, the members of C company located in the Savings Bank and one or two of the smaller branches of the Post Office being transferred. Mr. C. T. Hillier, of the Savings Bank Department, was the first captain after the interval. He joined the corps in 1872 and became lieutenant in July, 1881. Soon after taking the command of B he was appointed honorary major. He was always a good shot, and for many years figured in the regimental team, and his services in connection with regimental and other entertainments were always highly appreciated.

B Company has always furnished the lion's share the regimental signalling party, and is now represented by the battalion signalling officer, Lieut. Whitehurst, Sergeants Du l'eaume and Biggs, and Corporal Taylor. It is a source of gratification to know that largely owing to the efforts of Sergeant Du Heaum. the regiment stands exceedingly well in this branch of Army training. The company

has also provided the sergeant in charge of the cyclists and a large proportion of the members of the detachment, for many years, and has supplied the new cyclist company with its popular commanding officer, Captain E. W. Neales. The vacancy in the list of Savings Bank officers caused by this promotion has been filled by Mr. T. P. Hobbins, whose wonderful performances at the Royal Military Tournament have already been recounted in a previous article (January, 1898) in the Magazine. The company is fortunate in its non-commissioned officers. Colour Sergeant Disher can hold his own with any sergeant in the battalion; Sergeant A. D. Bell was best shot in the company in 1889, and has captained the Royal



CAPTAIN F. J. BRETT.

Military Tournament teams for two years; Sergeant Du Heaume, against the "crack" shots of C Company, carried off the blue ribbon of the Divisional prize meeting, held in July, 1896; Sergeant Braun, the sometime winner of the S.B.D. walking race; Bond, Jamouneau, whose fine voice is heard at regimental concerts as well as on parade, complete the list. The regimental quartermaster-sergeant, J. T. Smith, is also a member of B Company, and is a very able "right-hand" man of the quartermaster, Captain Hughes, who hails from C. The officer at present in command of B company is Captain F. J. Brett, whose athletic achievements are well known to the readers of *St. Martin's*. He is a capable and conscientious officer, and deserves the especial thanks of the regiment for his hard work in connection with the management of the school of arms. For

the whole period during which the school has been opened Captain Brett has been found in continuous attendance engaged in the arduous task of training the various squads. The great success of the school (particularly with regard to the use of the bayonet) is largely due to his efforts. He himself is an ex-champion with the bayonet, and it is satisfactory to record that three members of his company were selected to represent the regiment in the Metropolitan School of Arms Association competitions, and all of them fully justified their selection. Sergeant Whitehurst obtaining first prize in sabre *v.* sabre and second in sabre *v.* bayonet; Private Crampton second in bayonet *v.* bayonet; and Sergeant Bell fourth in sabre *v.* sabre. The same men appeared



PRIVATE E. B. PARLOUR.

in the regimental bayonet fighting team, which for several years won the competition open to the volunteers of the home district. Captain Brett is to be congratulated upon the success of his company in regimental competitions. For the Albemarle Cup it was first in 1899 and 1900, and for the Lord Bury Cup, third in 1899 and second this year. In 1899 and 1900 B Company has been second in musketry training and is the best shooting company of the present year. Captain Brett joined C Company in 1883 and received his commission in B in 1894.

For the year ending 31st October, 1900, the total strength of the company was 90 members—all efficient, and including 58 marksmen. Seven members joined the army for service in South Africa.

Any reference to B Company would be incomplete without

mention of Private E. B. Parlour, of the Accountant-General's Department, who retired in 1897 after a service of 37 years, 34 of which were spent in the Civil Service Corps. In all that pertained to military duties he was a model soldier. Private Parlour never sought or desired promotion, and he was probably the only member of the volunteer force who retained the rank of *private* for so long a period.

Mr. Francis Salisbury (Surveyor and Postmaster of Liverpool) was a member of B Company for three years (1867-9).

The success of C Company is a source of much gratification to Post Office Volunteers. On the promotion of Lieut. J. J. Cardin to the command in 1870 it appears to have become the more popular of the two companies. Mr. Cardin was one of those who signed the memorial urging that the Department should be allowed to take part in the volunteer movement, and he at once joined the regiment on its formation. He was the first colour-sergeant appointed to C. He was in command of the company from 1870 to 1891. In 1874, with the assistance of Sergeant F. E. Adams (present Postmaster of Portsmouth), he established the Post Office Rifle Association for the promotion of rifle shooting among all volunteers in the service of the Department. Although the association only lasted a few years, it did much to promote the efficiency of the "marksmen" of the Post Office. The first prize meeting was held at Tottenham on September 1st, 1875, when the Post Office team started from the old General Post Office in a coach and four after a great flourish of trumpets. A winner of several prizes, Captain Cardin took practical interest in shooting, and according to the present colonel of the regiment—the Earl of Albemarle—"he delighted to form one of a team who went down to the ranges to decide who should stand a dinner." He was equally interested in the inter-departmental shooting contests, and with Messrs. Mitford, Potter, and Graburn often competed for the Scudamore Challenge Cup. For many years Captain Cardin was a regular attendant at the meetings of the various committees of the Civil Service Corps. During the twenty-one years of his command of C Company he developed and used the qualities of his men to the best advantage. Captain Cardin obtained his majority with the honorary rank of lieutenant-colonel on the 9th August, 1890, a promotion which the company signalled by presenting him with a set of silver spurs. As senior major of the regiment, Colonel Cardin retired in 1894, after having served 34 years and seven months. His retirement was marked by a very handsome testimonial



COLONEL J. J. CARDIN, C.B.

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TO THE
APPENDIX

which was presented to him before a large and representative gathering at the headquarters of the corps at Somerset House on 15th December, 1894. It consisted of a dinner canteen and a handsome collection of silver. Accompanying the present was an album bound in the colours of the regiment and inscribed with the



SERGEANT F. E. ADAMS (SECRETARY OF THE POST OFFICE RIFLE ASSOCIATION, 1874).

names of the subscribers. On a silver salver was the following inscription :—

“ Presented to
Lieut.-Colonel JAMES J. CARDIN, V.D.,
12th Middlesex (Civil Service) Volunteers,

With a Service of Plate,

By Past and Present members of the Regiment,
on his retirement after over 34 years' service, as a token of sincere
steem and appreciation of his valuable work and genial good
qualities.


Headquarters, Somerset House. 15th December, 1894.”

A.G.D., G.P.O.

ERNEST A. MAY.

(To be continued.)

Early Colonial Posts.

HE early history of the Posts between this country and the Colonies, as well as of the Posts in the Colonies, is somewhat obscure. Mr. Hendy, the indefatigable curator of the Muniment Room at St. Martin's-le-Grand, has got together a good many particulars on the subject, which will no doubt be published sooner or later; and it is to him that the writer is mainly indebted for the following notes.

Not until the beginning of the eighteenth century was any attempt made by the British Government to provide postal communication between the Mother Country and the Colonies. Before that time everyone who had a letter to send to North America or the West Indies had to make his own arrangements for its conveyance. For a gratuity the captain of an outward-bound ship would carry the letter across the sea; and, as time went on, regular arrangements for the collection of such letters were made, bags for their reception being hung up at Lloyd's and the other coffee houses in London frequented by sea captains. The law which gave the Post Office a monopoly of the conveyance of inland letters did not apply to letters for places abroad, and such letters rarely fell into the hands of the Department.

Letters *from* places abroad had by law to be handed over to the Post Office at the port of arrival, and the captain of the ship which brought them was entitled to a gratuity of 1d. per letter. Moreover, in London, two men were appointed to visit incoming ships and collect the letters from them. Such letters were delivered by the Post Office, and the inland postage was collected on delivery.

The first local post offices in the Colonies seem to have been set up chiefly for the purpose of dealing with letters passing to and from places abroad. Thus in 1639 the General Court of Massachusetts published the following ordinance:—

“It is ordered that notice be given that Richard Fairbanks his house at Boston is the place appointed for all letters which are brought from beyond the seas or are sent thither to be left with him; and he is to take care that they are to be delivered or sent according to direction and he is allowed for every letter a penny; and he must answer all messages through his neglect in this kind.”

In Virginia, according to a law of 1657, every planter had to provide a messenger to carry dispatches as far as the next plantation on pain of forfeiting a hogshead of tobacco in default. The first Colonial inland post of any extent appears to date from 1672, when the Government of New York established a monthly mail to and from Boston. In 1683 William Penn not only set up a post office at Philadelphia but arranged for the conveyance of mails in some parts of Pennsylvania and Maryland. With none of these arrangements had the Imperial Government anything to do; but by the end of the seventeenth century communication between the Mother Country and the Colonies was becoming too important to escape Government supervision.

Accordingly, in 1688, James II. by an Order in Council authorised the setting up of a Post Office in Jamaica and "in such other of His Majesty's plantations in America as shall be found convenient for His Majesty's service and the ease and benefitt of his subjects." The postage between the United Kingdom and Jamaica was fixed at 6d. for a single letter (*i.e.*, a single sheet of paper without any enclosure), 1s. for a double letter (*i.e.*, a letter with enclosures but weighing under an ounce), and 2s. an ounce. It is not clear when and in what conditions a Post Office was actually established in Jamaica; but in 1692 a license to set up posts in North America was granted to one Thomas Neale, and he delegated the work to an energetic man named Andrew Hamilton, who was appointed Deputy Postmaster General. In 1693 Hamilton arranged a regular postal service between the principal places in the scattered settlements on the American coast from Portsmouth in New Hampshire down to Virginia, employing five men on horseback to cover five stages twice a week in summer and once a fortnight in winter. The enterprise proved an unprofitable one to Neale, whose expenses largely exceeded the revenue from the postage, and in 1707 he surrendered his patent to the Crown for £1,664. The posts in America were thereafter administered as a branch of the British Post Office down to the Revolution, at which time one of the joint Deputy Postmasters General of America was Benjamin Franklin. Even at that time the operations of the Post Office were practically confined to places on the Atlantic coast. As to Canada, Franklin stated in 1760 that "there is only one post—between Quebec and Montreal; the inhabitants live so scattered and remote from each other in that vast country that the posts cannot be supported among them."

While in ordinary times there were sufficient private ships sailing to and from the Colonies to carry the few letters then sent, in time of war, when over-sea trade was almost at a standstill, the need arose for some other means of communication. It was the outbreak of the war with France in 1702 which called into being the first mail packet service with the Colonies, sloops of war being provided by the Admiralty to carry the mails to and from the West Indies. These vessels sailed at uncertain intervals, and the voyage out and home occupied from 90 to 116 days. Mr. Dummer, Surveyor of the Navy, was so pleased with the result that he undertook a contract for the service. For £12,500 a year he was to build five boats of 140 tons each (about twice the size of a large fishing boat), carrying 26 men and 10 guns. These boats were to sail to and from the West Indies once a month. Dummer's venture proved to be an unfortunate one. The first packet under the contract fell into the hands of the enemy; a few months later a second was wrecked and a third captured by a privateer. By 1710 he had lost 9 vessels, 6 from privateers. His traffic receipts were disappointing, and in 1711 the service was discontinued. Some other similar services were projected about the same time. For example, in 1703 Sir Jeffery Jeffreys received permission to establish a packet to sail from the Isle of Wight to New York, two voyages to be performed every six or seven months. This project seems to have come to nothing; but in 1710 a monthly service was commenced between Bristol and New York, where a chief letter office was established. The total charge on a single letter between London and New York was fixed at 1s., of which 9d. was sea postage. The earnings of the contractors amounted only to £188 the first year and £252 the second year, and the service came to an end in 1714, from which time to the war of 1744, and again during the few years of peace after 1749, there were no colonial packets.

The permanent establishment of a regular mail service to and from the West Indies and America dates from 1755. The number and size of the packets were gradually increased, so that they might be better able to escape from storms and privateers; and some of their adventurous and often heroic doings in the following years are narrated in Mr. Norway's *History of the Packet Service*.

The postal communication with India was at first maintained chiefly by the ships of the East India Company, which called at the Cape of Good Hope and Mauritius and conveyed letters to and from those places also; and when towards the end of George III.'s reign the

Post Office tried to get into its hands all correspondence for places abroad, it naturally got into difficulties with the Company. In the end, by an Act of 1819, it was laid down that letters for the East Indies, the Cape, Ceylon and Mauritius might be sent otherwise than through the post; at the same time every ship sailing to those places was bound to convey mails thither free of charge, and very low rates of sea postage were fixed for correspondence entrusted for transmission to the Post Office.

Formerly, the owners of private ships could, and sometimes did, decline to take charge of mails, but an Act of 1815 gave the Post Office power to send a mail by any private ship leaving a port of the United Kingdom, and made it obligatory on the captain of such ship to deliver the mail to the Postmaster of the port of destination. The Postmaster-General was authorised to pay for the conveyance of ship letters certain fixed gratuities. It now became unnecessary for persons wishing to send letters to countries not served by Government packets to search out a ship going thither and arrange with the captain to take charge of their missives. The Post Office in most cases would and could find the ship and arrange for the conveyance of the letters. The arrangement influenced the establishment of colonial posts in another way. Persons had to be appointed in the chief ports of the colonies to receive the mails from incoming ships. Thus a Mr. Nichols was designated by the Governor to act as Postmaster at Sydney in 1810, and a Mr. Beaumont at Hobart in Tasmania in 1812, though there were no inland posts in any part of Australia until much later. Such men as a rule made their own charges for the letters which they received and despatched, and as the colonies developed, they arranged posts between the ports and places inland.

This state of things lasted until the application of steam to navigation, and the immense increase in trade, travel and emigration which accompanied that revolution. Communication between the mother country and the colonies was slow and generally infrequent and irregular; the postage on letters was high and generally carried only to the port of arrival, but the system was probably fairly adequate to the needs of the time. Judged by a modern standard, the total amount of the correspondence was very small. Probably that with India was the greatest; it is stated that in 1833 there were no less than 427 ships by which mails were sent to and from that country; and the postage was exceptionally low for that time (letters, 2d. for 3 oz. and 1s. for each additional ounce, newspapers 1d.

per oz., in addition to the British inland postage, which varied according to the distance); but the total amount carried for the Post Office in these ships was only :—

NO. OF LETTERS—

Outwards, 87,514. *Inwards*, 281,090.

NO. OF NEWSPAPERS—

Outwards, 70,746. *Inwards*, 5,086.

Evidently most of the outward letters did not pass through the post.

In 1842 the number of letters sent by post to and from Australia, New Zealand and the South Seas was—outwards, 79,158; inwards, 148,625.

In 1791-2 the total amount of postage collected in Canada was only £2,229; and even in 1838 it had risen only to about £44,000 a year.

The change in the route of the Indian Mail from the Cape to Suez is associated with the name of Thomas Waghorn, who first made his appearance at the Post Office in 1827 with a scheme for building a steamship to ply between this country and India *via* the Cape. He found that, by an Act of Parliament above referred to, the owners of vessels sailing to and from India had to carry mails free, and that the Government were not disposed to pass a special Act relieving him from this obligation, so that he might receive a subsidy for the mails he carried. After two years' agitation against what he no doubt considered "red-tape obstruction," Waghorn developed a more fruitful idea, that of reaching India *via* Egypt. Hearing that a steamship was about to be sent from Bombay to Suez and back, he started from London on the 1st of October, 1829, travelled *via* Trieste to Alexandria, across Egypt to Suez, and, not finding the expected steamer, made his way down the Red Sea by native boat and finished the voyage in a man-of-war. This journey showed Waghorn the practicability of the Suez route, and henceforward his efforts were mainly directed to its development. The British Mail packets already went to Malta, and it was only necessary that they should go on to Alexandria. Between Suez and Bombay the East India Company must establish steamers. Several years passed before the British Government and the Company could make up their minds to spend £100,000 a year on the conveyance of mails, which had until then cost them next to nothing; but in 1837 the overland mail service was at length established, the arrangements for the transit of the mails across Egypt being entrusted to Mr. Waghorn. Very little

experience showed that the best route for the mails between this country and Egypt was through France, instead of by steamer all the way between Falmouth and Alexandria; and a special Indian mail service under the charge of a British Officer was set up between Calais and Marseilles in 1839. The mail was packed in iron boxes. Its total weight was about 400 lbs. A special coach was provided for its conveyance between Calais and Paris. Between Paris and Marseilles, which was reached on the fifth day after leaving London, sufficient room was found in the ordinary mail coach by excluding passengers from the inside.

The constitutional question of the control of the Imperial Post Office over posts in the Colonies was settled by a long controversy which took place in reference to British North America from about 1830 to 1850. In Upper and Lower Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island (then separate Colonies), and in Jamaica, the inland posts, and not merely the service to and from the mother country, were managed by deputies appointed by the Postmaster-General. The postage was regulated by an Act passed in 1765 and was very high. For example, to send a letter from Quebec to Montreal cost 9d.; from Quebec to Toronto, 1s. 6d.; and from Toronto to Halifax, 2s. 9d. Where the revenue exceeded the expenditure, the surplus was remitted to London. The dissatisfaction aroused by this state of things was fomented by the newspapers, which had a special ground of complaint against the Deputy Postmaster-General, who under an arrangement of old standing but very doubtful authority charged newspapers transmitted through the post about 1d. each and pocketed the proceeds. Accordingly, about 1830, the Canadian legislatures began to agitate for the control of the Post Office. They urged that the Act passed in 1778 giving to the local authorities in the Colonies the net produce of internal taxation ought to apply to postage. The law officers of the Crown, consulted in 1832 on this point, thought that the claim could not be successfully attacked at law. The Imperial Post Office, considering its control of the posts throughout British North America important in the interests of uniformity of postage and regulations, and in order to prevent rival colonies taxing each other's letters, wished to meet the discontent by introducing lower rates of postage, but was met with the difficulty that Parliament had renounced the right to impose new taxes in the Colonies. It was held that any alteration by Parliament of the existing rates fixed at the beginning of George III.'s reign would constitute a new tax. In

these circumstances an Act was passed in 1834, which, while leaving the management of the North American posts in the hands of the Postmaster-General, gave the Colonial legislatures the power to fix postage, and provided that the net produce of the inland rates should be divided proportionately among the Colonies. The whole arrangement was, however, dependent on Acts being passed by the Colonial legislatures in accordance with a model sent from England and designed to secure uniformity of charges and regulations. But the legislatures in question, which were at the time seriously embroiled with the Home Government and with one another, declined to comply with the prescribed conditions, and the Act therefore was of no effect.

In 1845, it being desired that the Postmaster-General should assume control of the Australian posts (a project which was never fully carried out), an Act was passed giving Her Majesty's Treasury power to fix Colonial postage and to extend the provisions of British Post Office Acts to any Colony. The postal revenue, after meeting expenses, was to be applied to the development of the service, and any surplus was to be handed over to the Colonial Government. Applications from the North American colonies for a reduction of postage now became still more pressing; and it was clear that concessions would have to be made. But it was estimated that with the lower rates the revenue would no longer cover the expenditure; and, rather than carry on a losing business, the Postmaster-General preferred to hand over the internal posts entirely to the Colonial Governments. Accordingly, an Act of 1849 provided that the legislatures of Colonies might establish posts within such Colonies; but that, if the Postmaster-General had already set up posts in any Colony, the legislature, before taking such action, must get the consent of Her Majesty, whereupon the Postmaster-General's powers should cease as regards *inland* posts, to which alone the powers of the Colonial legislature were to extend. This is the Act on the basis of which the postal systems of the British Colonies have grown up. The control of the posts between the Colonies and places outside them thus remains constitutionally with the Postmaster-General, a state of things which corresponds with the fact that in many cases the communication of the Colonies with the outer world depends to a great extent on contract packet services controlled by the Postmaster-General. Otherwise, as the external postal relations of the Colonies are in the main regulated by the International Convention of the Universal Postal Union, it is seldom that a case arises in which

it is necessary for the Postmaster-General to exercise his statutory rights in the interests of the Empire as a whole.

The North American posts passed out of the management of the British Post Office in 1851; the same course was followed in 1860 in regard to the West Indies and Hong Kong, and finally as regards Malta and Gibraltar in 1884-1886. In accordance with the principles of self government on which the British Empire is based, the Colonies have been left to develop their internal postal service to suit their own peculiar requirements. At the same time the Imperial Post Office, with its wider experience and outlook, watches over their external postal relations, is always ready to help with advice, and is often called on to supply trained administrators.

To return to the packet service—the introduction of steamships at once made the sailing packets obsolete, and to maintain a fleet of government vessels which should be at least equal in speed to those of private owners soon proved an expensive business.

Accordingly a new system was initiated in the case of the mails for and from the British possessions in the Mediterranean and the overland mails for and from India, the conveyance of which by Government packets between Falmouth and Alexandria often occupied from three weeks to a month. In 1837 a contract for the service between Falmouth and Gibraltar was made with the Peninsular Steam Navigation Company. The arrangement proved a success; and in 1840 the contract service was extended to Malta and Alexandria. In the same year the Company determined to establish steam communication with India. They therefore obtained incorporation under the title (now famous throughout the world) of the “Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company” and proceeded to build steamers for the service beyond Suez.

At that time the Indian mails were conveyed between Suez and Bombay once a month by steamers belonging to the Indian Government; and in 1845 the P. and O. Company undertook to supplement this service by a line of steamers between Suez and Calcutta with a branch line between Ceylon and China. In 1854 the Company took over the Suez and Bombay service, and in 1859 established a branch service to Australia, the first regular and rapid mail service with that Continent. The position of the Company as the principal carriers of Her Majesty's mails to and from India, Australia and the Far East has not since then been shaken, though often attacked.

In 1840 the West India packets were abolished, a contract for the

conveyance of mails to and from all the places served by them being made with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. At the same time Mr. (afterwards Sir Samuel) Cunard undertook to carry the mails by his steamships twice a month to and from New York, Boston, Halifax and Quebec, thus superseding the American packets of the Government. The connection of the other Mail Steamship Companies with the Post Office is of much later date and is certainly not rightly included in an article, which has already gone beyond its title of Early Colonial Posts.

S.O.

L. T. HORNE.

CARACALLA'S LAMP.

(Unearthed from its resting place of centuries in Roman soil to grace an English drawing room.)

Across the years thou fling'st thy flickering light,
 O Lamp of Caracalla, to illumine
 The dead, dark days that centuries entomb
 In mystery. On many a wondrous sight
 Thy rays have fallen since the enchanted night
 Smiled upon Rome's patricians, and their doom
 Of quick oblivion. Through that murky gloom
 Our eyes may pierce not : yet thou shinest bright.

They all are gone, those whom thou lightened'st then,
 Down the dim ways of death : yea, all their pride
 And pageantry have vanished as a dream.
 But thou, frail thing of clay, outlivest men ;
 A voiceless messenger thou dost abide,
 A waif cast up by Time's resistless stream.

HENRY F. SMART.

S.O.

“Upon my Word and Honour.”

WE are all aware of the Draconic rule which the Editor of this Magazine has laid down, and displaying his usual virile purpose, enforces with a just impartiality, not to admit to its pages dissertations on approved methods of conducting official business, or reviews of departmental organization. It goes without saying that, as usual, his decision in this respect is the right one. So I, the least of his scribes (Lower Division), much as I should prefer to break away from the disciplinary fetters, loyally resign myself to his adamantine will.

At the same time I venture to remark that it is no easier for me, as a chip of the old block, writing from Cross Post Villa, The Polygon, Clapham Rise, S.W., than it was for Mr. Dick, care of Miss Trotwood, down at Dover, to keep King Charles' Head altogether out of the Memorial.

In this instance, however (happily for me—for I am tremulous with great news), it is not so difficult as of yore to circumvent the astute head of the Editorial branch, inasmuch as he has, in a sense, given himself away and levelled down to us poor fry by stepping into the arena of description with a lively, picturesque, and minutely accurate account of the Street He Knows Best. He has opened, unconsciously, so wide a door to the Forbidden Region that my humble coach and four drives gaily in—no one gainsaying, with lamps alight, many a flick of the far-reaching whip and tootles of the resounding horn.

What will my esteemed, my venerated, reader say to a distinct and properly vouched revelation of a Great Future for him and his Department; to prospective increases, let us suppose, in the *maxima* of scales, to enlarged increments, longer holidays, shorter hours of official duty, optional abridgement of service (all rights reserved), enhanced pensions, cheaper living, healthful abodes at low rents; and such other benefactions of a like nature as would, with those already mentioned, so far qualify official life, so far involve it in unlooked for amenities, as to allow of its becoming a thing of beauty and a joy for many years?

In a word what view would he—that is *you*, highly regarded colleague—take of a new departure of his own *Alma Mater*, having for its twofold object his own personal benefit in particular and the greater prosperity of the country in general?

To quicken his apprehension yet further, and enable him to give the prompt and vivacious answer which I foresee, shall I add, that he may conceive of these desirable ends being attained by a process so rapid, by leaps and bounds so constant and so nimble, as to out-run the progress of the past in some such fashion as the motor bicycle of to-day flashes out of recognition the four-wheeled velocipede dear to my tender youth?

Need I pause for the cheerful reply? I trow not. As Brutus might have said, on a certain historic occasion—in fact, he very nearly did so express himself—"Who is there here that doth not love his country—and himself?"

So to business. But, Bless Grashus, Honey, you don't suppose the story is to be told—the foundation laid, the superstructure built and the roof completed (all to be done from cutting the first sod for the concreted footing to fixing at top the majestic finial) in a breath! Even Rome was not—well, you possibly have heard that tale before.

Many thousand words of fact, dashed, as some may think, however superficially, with a trifle of fiction—salt for the festive egg, caviare to the general—must go into the melting pot of your brain, before the marrow of this succulent bone can be spread on the toast of your imagination—before the true inwardness of this soul-stirring paper shall reveal itself to your bright intelligence.

Now, to the detriment I fear of Queen Victoria Street and the Embankment, not to say the leafy avenues of Battersea—what time they skirt the silvern Thames—or the shopping seductiveness of Tottenham Court Road, Our Author has declared that there is a street in Kent, hard by the bed of the vanished Wantsum, which He Knows Best. That gifted writer and, as regards his own great capacity, most modest of men, knows best about a great many things; as witness the perennial stream of wit, fancy and instruction which (published quarterly, annual subscription strictly in advance) flows from his fertile pen for the re-invigoration of our jaded intellects.

Yet with all this wealth of knowledge and his touching allusions to many of the bygone glories of the Isle of Thanet, to Sarre, to St. Nicholas-at-Wade, and to the tribute money still paid by hand, he does no more for the lost pre-eminence of one of the Milestones of

British History, for the home of the Nursery Muse, than coldly refer to it as the Dead City of Stonar—

"Upon my Word and Honour
As I was going to STONAR
I met a pig
Without a wig
Upon my Word and Honour."—*Nursery Rhyme.*

Well, Ston—"What!" say you, "have we been brought so far only to consider a nursery jingle; to dwell on the habits of a migratory pig rather than on good pay and quick promotion, on a dead city instead of a live increment?"

Patience, dear friends, possess your souls in that quality, even though it be a trifle strained. Great things spring from small ones. Our Author himself was once a babe in arms. Think of the tons of solid gold planked down after the first deposit of a single silver shilling by the great Sir Charles of Huddersfield. 'Tis the unexpected which happens; as, for example, the last number of this Magazine came out on the very day it was due! Take courage!

As I was about to observe, Stonar has been strangely forgotten by our honoured department. It has no post office of any sort, it is not even mentioned in the all-inclusive Postal Guide. Our own Author clips it of half its true name—Stonar St. Augustine. It is a benefice, but the Clergy List ungenerously denies it a church; it is thought now to contain no more than thirty-five souls. Here is a pass to which an ancient place—beautifully referred to by Our Author, when his pen took a softer nib, as a city set on a hill—has been brought by the absence of a post office and the drying up of the Wantsum.

Think of the antiquity of Stonar. St. Augustine landed in Thanet in 596. Of its early social importance: "As I was going to Stonar," as though all roads led to that particular Rome; of the high moral tone prevalent thereabouts: "Upon my word"—an Englishman's word even then was his bond; its clear regard for sanitation (what a lesson for these degenerate days!) the pig was being driven *from* Stonar; its reputation as a stronghold of the Isle—*Ston* = a stone or stone city, *Ar* = a thing to look at. Hence the derivatives *ar*—rest, stop and see; *ar*-tful, circumspect, full of resource; De *Aar* Junction, a great meeting place; even *ah! Hah, ha!!* (as not unlikely interjections growing from the same root) expressive of joy and admiration.

Lastly I would add, as an immediate prelude to the absorbing

theme of better salaries all round, that the Isle of Thanet, whatever Our Author may say of it, was once celebrated for its Spinach. The pig tribe no doubt had now and then a browse on that dainty, hence a special delicacy in the flavour of a Thanet ham, which accounts for the thought of pig being uppermost in the mind of our itinerant ballad maker.

But I am dallying with the true point—the fact, and its *sequela*, that Stonar has no post office. Alas! it does not in that respect stand alone; thousands of places in England, more populous and not less ancient, are similarly isolated. Consider the village of Burnham Thorpe—population 350, against Stonar's 35—a place which is the very cradle of British naval supremacy. Here Nelson lisped at his mother's knee; there is the church in which he heard his first sermon: there the sward on which, maybe, he punched the bully's head. But you will not find a village post office. For that necessity of civilised life a trudge to Burnham Market is needful.

Once an eminent colleague lectured in the Albert Hall. He waved his magic wand. So unexpected was its potency, that bang went a torpedo amongst eight thousand people.

Let our department wave its wand over Burnham Thorpe, giving it, hey presto! not alone a £5 post office, but perchance two-fold deliveries and collections, perhaps a telephone. Lo! What vision dazzles my prospective optic, what change comes o'er the spirit of the doleful fact? A vista of prosperity brilliant as the Beauty of Camberwell, S.E.—*Vanessa Antiopa*. The local school, where Horatio Nelson put two and two together, blossoms into the central training ground of British youth bound for the Royal Navy.

Within its walls, or larking within bounds—perhaps out of them—see in your prophetic eye, dear sir, thousands of British naval heroes as yet unborn sucking in the wisdom and the manhood hereafter to make them great. Not only on Eton's low-lying meadows, but on the playing fields of Burnham, too, shall the Empire hereafter win its seamen's battles. Hurrah!

Did I not trace poor Stonar's Decline and Fall to two causes—no post office, no Wantsum? See how simply the neglect of centuries may be repaired. Give Stonar its post office, not as mere sub to Sandwich, but as full-blown R.S.O. Then cut a ship canal from Sandown to the River Stour. (Not the Sandown in the Isle of Wight, well-read sir, but that hard by Deal.) Next, plant new posts and telegraphs, especially telephones, at Stonar, and equip it with a Crown building. Then pour a dredged, a deepened, a straightened

Stour into the dried-up Wantsum bed, letting in the sea at Sandown, and, if it pleases, out at Reculvers. So shall we give the go-by to the dreaded Goodwins, and bring a shower of wealth to Kent and to Thanet in particular.

I am, of course, intent on postal matters only, but just to relax the strain, I momentarily turn aside, dear reader, to give you a glimpse of the working of the mind of an engineer who has missed his vocation, who brings together A and C forms in the gloomy halls of the basement instead of tunnelling the Cordillera and bridging the Ocean.

Observe! I make a cut from the sea at Sandown and another at Reculvers. I utilise the Stonar loops of the Stour as vast inland docks and an unassailable port, wherein the navies of our Empire, militant and commercial, may ride, moor, anchor, or stop in safety. See the beauty of this plan. When 'tis high water at Sandown, the flood tide still flows at Reculvers. Thus we get a scour in our ship canal from south to north. When the tide turns to ebb at Sandown, the estuary of the Thames is yet full of water; thus a scour will be secured north to south; an automatic dredging to take place four times a day, which will maintain a fair-way for the very largest vessels. I would add it would be so even at low water neap tides, but that I am not clear what neap may mean; and I can't bring in the usual reference to fathoms on the sill, because apparently we shall want no sill at all.

Here then will pass the Commerce of the World, for besides providing a deep-water short cut from the Chops of the Channel to the embouchure of the Thames, the new Wantsum will flow close to the edge of the Kentish coal measures, and every argosy which ploughs the North Sea or steers for the Downs will coal up at Stonar cheaply and well.

On this diversion of the Stour we shift the shrimping industry of Pegwell Bay, reclaim its extensive flats, turn on to them the sludge of Crossness Point, and make of this vast expanse one of the granaries of England.

So, having rebuilt the fortunes of Stonar (all starting from a £5 post office) and filled up north-east Kent with a golden prosperity, turn we to our Increments.

All who have done me the honour to read thus far may reasonably ask where shall they find the dividing line in this connection, between works of public policy and productiveness and matters affecting their personal interests. Dear brothers and sisters of the

pen, the stamping pad, the convivial "condenser" and the monetary docket, both are inextricably bound up together. For while you cannot have higher pay without more postal offices—at least, you are not certain to enjoy the one without the other—this is clear, there cannot be additions to and extensions of your valued labours without your relative importance to the whole service growing apace. I see, with clearest vision, a bright future for the *personnel* in all ranks; and now that you have reached this point of my narrative, take a sly peep at the draft establishment further on, as a sort of moral snack by the way, to cheer your spirits and like Honoré de Balzac, "to catch your genius up."

If there is one dolorous fact of our social economy more firmly established than another, it is that of the migration of the Flower of the working population from the land to the town, from the rural hedgerow, very bright in summer and rather straggling, damp and dull in winter, to the overcrowded, drain-smelling, gas-pervaded, but more cheerful and cash abounding centres of population.

Estimates may vary of the extent to which this drift has gone, but the main fact is denied by none, that a large percentage of field labourers and others, especially the young and robust of both sexes, have left agricultural occupations altogether. So the town absorbs them, urban tenements multiply, and farms revert to the thistle.

No one, least of all your obedient servant, would be so wild as to contend that a mere village post office, although including, as it might, all the branches of postal duty, would redress this crying evil and induce plenty and contentment in a deserted village; no, not even though it should be Sweet Auburn itself. But it would nevertheless be a means, a cheap, wholesome, effective, and readily applied means, to a most worthy end. A post office which may be set up to-morrow must benefit some of the rural hermits and cannot harm a soul. There is much virtue in a £5 post office, especially if it be allied to a public telephone service.

A recluse might choose of his own free will to live in a station-less, cab-less, post-less, doctor-less, shop-less, telephone-less hamlet, but not the ordinary householder, such, beloved reader, as you and I. Granted a post office, one drawback to rural life is knocked off. Given the telephone, away goes another; a day as well as a night post, yet another; while the use of a wheeled conveyance for passengers at low fares, for parcels and the day mail, run to a time table, would bid fair to make even the rural Desert blossom as the Rose. Look what was done at Holkham. Call on the Postmaster of

Fakenham for his observations. In the ideal case, the ground-landlord builds a house or two on spec., tenants come, they give employment; he builds more houses; some cottagers settle down in model dwellings put up by the intelligent owner; a shop is opened; the young doctor comes to form a practice; the village grows a-pace. If then Springs in the Desert follow (in the shape of a regulated water supply), what remains to be done for converting the wilderness to an Eden? No drains! no, I think not—storm-water channels if you like, effluents of some sort, but not sewers until we know better how to render them innocuous, and understand in all its details a most complicated problem.

Observe, pray, that the Department is not to become the Universal Provider in the ways described. It is only to do its sober part of scattering £5 post offices and telephones and telegraphs with a generous disregard of precedent and rule.

Did I say that a large extension of postal activity might play ducks and drakes with our postal profits? If not, it was in my mind to do so. But there are worse things than a depleted surplus. Do not my readers perceive the nettle Danger out of which (by way of original remark) I wish to pluck the flower Safety? On the physical stamina of the British race the British Empire must in the main depend. The wisest legislators, the astutest ministers, may ply their eloquence in vain if the labouring classes merge in the stunted dwellers of the alley and the slum, in the five-family tenement of the seething street.

Vigour means rural life, fresh air, healthy dwellings, open spaces. It means even more. But these definitions will serve a turn. Yet a little while, if the drift from without to the city walls continues, how shall the pale faces of approaching generations fare when they sit with their enemies in the gate?

You smile? Very good; let us rather talk about longer holidays and better pensions. If you allowed of a deduction from your monthly stipend in aid of the statutory grant, what a fine retiring allowance you might, by an easy thrift, secure. Surely this is striking oil! If the Government would not do it out of pure benevolence, an insurance office, for profit, would. Then the forty-sixtieths looming in the future might swell to full pay. Think how consoling on retirement that would be.

At this moment vast changes are imminent at the great office of the Saltpetre Pans. The minister in charge has got a mandate from the nation to show a lead across country. But who is told to look after rural life; who has a mandate for the benefit of Hodge? The

Local Government Office? No. The Agricultural Office? N—no. The Home Office? Certainly not. The Board of Trade? Not a bit of it. Well, for that matter, all nibble at the cheese, but no one Minister can lay his hand on his seal of office and say, "Rural Life, it is I!" Least of all can the Postal Chief say so.

One Sunday, many years ago, thirty almost, when the postal telegraph system was in process of settling down to the high efficiency it soon attained and still keeps up, Sir William Preece, releasing me from the pleasant duty of tidying his desk at Calne, carried me off to a little Wiltshire church. There, leaving the perplexities of clear circuits, cross circuits, local circuits, and omnibus circuits, Wheatstones, Morse inkers, single needles, and the famous Bright's bell to take care of themselves, we listened to one of the few sermons which dwell on the too careless memory. It was from a text, as I recall it: "First the blade, then the ear, then the full corn in the ear." I wonder if that eminent electrician remembers the day and the sermon, or whether the incidence of telegraphy without wires has blurred the recollection. Anyway, to the paraphrase. First the post office, then the population, then the town council and the full charter of incorporation. The last I own may not always follow the first, but it is in the nature of things that the first must ever precede the last. This proposition may not possess the merit of novelty, but at least it presents the logic of truth.

"How to distinguish between fact and fiction?" Don't distinguish at all. Ship canals and the laying out of rural estates are not, it is true, in the purview of the Post Office (though it would do both much better than most agencies), but extended usefulness in the public interest is well within its tether. On other points, with a sweet reasonableness of which I am serenely conscious, argument and reason shall have due weight; but on this one central point—the full service of the public by postal means—I am, most respected sir, in deadly earnest.

We must get back the villager to the village and that largely by the Post Office taking the first small step. What says Lady Frederick Cavendish, widow of a gifted and lamented Secretary of the Treasury? "The only solution of the housing question I can offer is to bring the people back to the country districts." Of course that, from a hundred points of view, is the true and only policy.

It is not, however, the country alone which appeals to us. Wherever the eye is turned, in London with its millions of pallid citizens, in the great towns far and wide, as well as in the leafy

country and the fertile plain, the Post Office may, with silently exerted yet irresistible force, do a great public work. You remember Kwasind, do you not—the Hiawathian Sandow—who did not know his own strength until he tried it? Very well; that is the case of our popular Department. Of its potentiality for good, who shall define the limit? The work which it has to do no doubt spells outlay. Why not, so long as some wise end is gained?

See what has been achieved by those bright and capable administrations the Post Offices of New Zealand and the Cape. By them, the good gifts of the Post have been sown with hand so liberal as to cast into the shade the best which we have done at home. In the Dominion of Canada and the Commonwealth of Australia, no doubt, the same enlightened spirit has prevailed. Of that, alas! I know but little. It is a far cry from Clapham Rise to Port Phillip Heads. Was it not in the very early fifties—1852, perhaps—that Sir John (then plain Mr.) Hall went out from serving Colonel Maberley, in our own Secretary's Office, to lay, as the event proved, foundations broad and deep of postal prosperity in New Zealand—settler, sheep farmer, militant volunteer, member of colonial parliament, postmaster-general, premier, he was good in all stations of life; and do not I, if of small degree myself, get annually the glowing page of postal progress in the old Maori realm? Was it not, too, in the early eighties that also from the Secretary's Office went forth Postmaster-General French, who, with master hand, has built up the fortunes of the Cape of Good Hope Post Office until the greatness of his work outshines the palatial office which houses his surroundings in Adderley Street of the capital?

What free hands and astute brains have done in Wellington and Auckland, at Cape Town, and ere long shall do at Bloemfontein and Pretoria, may not we attempt at home, and pocketing our pride follow with prosperous result our children's lead?

The rule—wholesome enough in itself when imposed on a branch of State service which has to pay its way and hand over a few millions to the Exchequer—that every fresh act shall show a prospective balance of profit, is one that kills as well as cures. It kills rural development because it exacts a profit when the district is too immature to yield one; to which dismal practice there has been one exception, and a very grand one, too, viz., the Jubilee free delivery of letters. Even the splendour of that performance would be heightened by an abundant sprinkling of £5 post offices. Of course, how far the rule now observed should be set aside is a problem for

statesmen to solve. We underlings not being of that exalted class might possibly favour the topsy turvey idea that the Post Office should be struck off the list of direct revenue producers and left to its own devices to be ten times more productive indirectly.

Made to subserve the best interests of the nation, the department would simplify its action. Such nice distinctions as reckoning night mail letters at one rate and day mail letters at another, would, in that poetic phrase which makes even Acts of Parliament melodious, cease and determine. Population might sometimes be taken as a basis of calculation rather than number of letters. Remoteness of situation might be allowed to weigh in the balance, and telegraphs and telephones, and especially telephones, carried, in a manner of speech, to every door.

Then perchance our three or four millions net would begin to melt like snow in an average May. All the better if it did. Our balance is too big. It is so much abstracted of that which feeds the intellectual, moral and social life of the community. It is surely one of the worst forms of taxation. At least so I think; and deeper thinkers than I have thought so too. When clear of Divisional sorting at Mount Pleasant, resting from my spell at overtime in counting dockets at the Savings Bank, or looking up the B forms elsewhere, so I have always thought and sometimes said. You know how the poet sings:

"And when I've said a thing three times
That self-same thing is true."

In my youth, when the century was young, great was the talk about 10-pound householders, and even of 7-pounders, but the much more significant £5-post office had not then caught on to the public fancy. Yet one which may by a figure include day-mails, third mails, cross posts, special mails, extra deliveries, travelling post offices, cheaper parcels, pay-on-delivery posts, motor cars, petrol bicycles, Bianconi cars, telegraphic retirement of noted, perhaps even of protested bills of exchange (ah! what a veritable blessing to men stricken in commerce, who not daring to lift the voice to be saved, are doomed to ruin if silent), cheap telephones, etc., is as full of the promise of prosperity as an egg is full of meat. So let us have a first instalment of (say) ten thousand more post offices. As Mr. Fawcett once remarked, "Oh! if we had but a million pounds to play with!"

Bear in mind, generous critic, with your justifiable regard for the British taxpayer, a million spent does not necessarily mean a million

lost. Well laid out money in the Post Office usually comes back, sooner or later, full measure, heaped up, running over. The official purse of the Nineties contained many a full-weight sovereign, earned by the enterprise of the Eighties. As we know, “there is that scattereth, yet increaseth.”

Even improved pay, whether current as salary or deferred as pension, is not always money lost. On efficient heart-willing service the Department flourishes. Served coldly, it would languish and die. Now for a Plan of Campaign!

A reformed Legislature having secured to the Civil Servant on the electoral register the privilege of voting for the election of Members of the Lower House of Parliament, the Plan of Campaign for intelligent citizens of our own official class is surely well defined—plain as the mud of the dwindling Stour.

We might have a Charter of Six or Eight Points like the good old cry of 1846, and we modern Chartists should expound the same to all men desirous of seats in the Witenagemote. Here is the fascinating octave of St. Martin's:—

1. A Post Office, for at least elementary business, in every hamlet of 50 inhabitants, where a reputable housekeeper can be found willing and qualified to be sub-postmaster.
2. A Post Office doing full business, including, within reasonable limits, telephones or telegraphs, in all villages of 150 inhabitants. Therein build Crown offices and stock them with young pensioners not up to the stress and toil of the great centres.
3. Night mail collections and arrivals of course at all Post Offices; letters by day mails to be called for at the hamlet post offices and delivered within local limits from the village offices. (Night mail letters as you know now go straight to the addressees.)
4. A day mail collection and delivery at all villages where the postal pence reckoned in both directions (*both*, mind you, even though the same penny be counted twice, and this be not business but policy) shall suffice to cover bare costs. A third collection on the same plan.
5. A passenger conveyance, at low fares, fitted to the day mail in all cases where the Contractor will accept as payment for the mails and parcels a sum not more than twice the cost of delivery by foot service.

6. A wire to the telephone exchange at the market town or head post office, wherever prospective business will repay the bare cost of working the wire, or where the local authority will guarantee half the cost. Five minutes talk, 3d. Telegrams at current rates.
7. Telephone exchanges at all head post offices.
8. A town delivery at all head post towns to follow on the arrival of the night posts from rural parts.
9. [No! Surprised at my own moderation, I stop for the moment at 8, but I have in my mind a vast extension of facilities to all places of public resort, such as hotels, railway stations, etc.]

With ten thousand new post offices all in the gift of the Chief, what havens of rest for the working bees in the assorting and telegraphic branches! After 20 years at the Key or the "roads," what joy to retire on an undiminished income to a rural postmaster-ship; ourselves to look after the garden, the cash, and the mails; our pretty Jane, on suitable allowance, to preside at the counter; and mother from the metropolitan gallery or elsewhere, in the back parlour to tap off the telegrams with one hand while rocking our latest with the other! I protest. the picture's Idyllic. The view from our Editor's window over Battersea reach, to borrow the classic phrase of the cultured writer of the day, is not in it.

And if we bestow a thought on others as well as on our noble selves, think with what rapture the emaciated dwellers in towns will fly back to a glorified—well, to a much less unattractive—glebe; the householders to the well-built, spacious, wholesome, low-rented, one-storied houses in the village, each planted within its own garden and paddock. For the working man, not jerry cottages, but warm, dry ones, ventilated, cheap, handy to the village or the farm; the cricket field, the well-kept green, the rifle range, the village club, the ivy-clad church and its ring of six bells; and yes, certainly, a well-ordered "Red Lion" in the midst. Besides all this, plans for the workman's (and his wife's) reasonable recreation and refreshment; a public laundry and drying ground, public warming place for the cold weather, public play room for children of all ages. A general free assembly room for those who choose to come, music, dancing, magic lanterns, fun, frolic, liveliness ever going on (in reason); even Punch and Judy at times, and the enthralling circus; so, suiting all ranks, both sexes, all ages. Conspicuous amongst the public buildings, even of a village, will necessarily be the well-kept post

office, with its trim cottage garden. "Here blushing Flora paints th' enamelled ground." Here, too, the enamelled plates, weekly washed, bright, shining, smart as the red-coated mail guards on the King's birthday of yore, shall remind the wayfarer that true civilisation has been reached at last.

In view of developments so extensive of postal business, in town and country, how does my prophetic soul sketch out the establishment of the future? This is an outline—

	Salary.
The Minister in charge of 350,000 officials to be a SECRETARY of STATE (political—here to-day and gone to-morrow)	£5,000
The Director General (5 years certain)	3,500
The Secretary (permanent)... ..	2,500
Judicial Adviser	3,000
Controllers (including Divisional Chiefs and Med- ical Adviser), each	2,000
Surveyors, ever (in former days) described by authority as the Eyes of the Department, each	1,500
Clerks, from £200 to £1,200.	
General body, from £75 to £750.	
Postmasters, double present pay.	
Rank and file, pay and a half.	

Say, thou cherished *confère*, am I not true guide, philosopher and friend? Mark the sweet simplicity of the principle underlying the last two lines. As compared therewith, even 3 per cent. consols, not to say special commissions of all sorts, must take the hindmost of all back seats. Realising what I foresee, may I not justly be once more amazed, viz., at the moderation of my scales? Have I not brightened your prospects, cast a halo over the finance of the domestic future, and reconciled you to the official lot which some of our representatives in these pages have consistently bemoaned?

Of these large benefits the final cause must be sought in the exalting by Our Author of the Street He Knows Best. It is he who starts the ball which rolls up rich blessings to all and sundry. How shall his good deed best be honoured—how may the name of our benefactor be securely passed on to a grateful but uninformed posterity? In the old days—it may yet be so in these—men, who in the eyes of the Church reached some sublime height of personal excellence, were long after departure from sublunary scenes immortalized by special ceremonial. To posterity they were thenceforth

known as saints, such being the best that affection and good-will could do to bear them in perpetual memory.

Now, in our Mother of all Parliaments, it is known there are peers spiritual and peers temporal. Both happily receive their peerages while still alive, a practice which as it occurs to me has much to recommend it. Similarly, in the National Record there might be saints temporal as well as saints spiritual. Our Author, though he may not know it, clearly comes of a sainted stock. The fact is easy to establish. A single proof, one of many, will suffice. Londoners interested in their ancient churches, will be aware of the benefice, now united with St. Peter le Poer's, which is dedicated to St. Benet Finck. Of the virtues and repute of that particular object of canonization I do not pause to treat. He, no doubt, did well in his day, as Our Author, perhaps on other lines, has done in ours. Whose but his that modest candle which, relighted quarterly, chiefly by his genius, sends its beams afar, shining like a good deed in the naughty world round about St. Paul's?

Here, then, in a new but supplemental calendar shall we make a great departure. While saints spiritual may, according to time-hallowed custom, be honoured subsequent to decease, let us, with our saints temporal, bestow approval and a mark of honour while our friends are yet at the zenith of their powers. So may we begin the temporal record with the distinguished name of St. BENET MARTINS.

And now for a closing word. Lest it be suggested that I have sought to pave some broad and easy path towards the same honour for myself, I hereby shroud my identity, at best obscure, in the impenetrable fog which hangs around the unknown name of

ZED.

Post Office Progress during the past Hundred Years.



THE dawn of the Nineteenth Century, when good King George was on the throne, saw the Post Office of this country in what may be described as a transition state. It was just then beginning to feel the benefits of the system of mail coaches which had been established by Mr. John Palmer, the manager of the Bath and Bristol theatres, and who figures as one of the greatest of early postal reformers. Prior to his time the mails had been carried by post-boys on horseback at an average speed, including stoppages, of from three to four miles an hour. It is not surprising then that the post was looked upon as almost the slowest conveyance in the country. It was also a very unsafe means of transit, as is borne out by the number of robberies which took place. The post, indeed, at that time appears to have been in an altogether unsatisfactory condition, and when Mr. Palmer came forward with his proposal that the mail bags should be sent by the mail coaches accompanied by well-armed and trustworthy guards, Mr. Pitt, to whom the proposal was made, at once recognized its merits and obtained the authorization of its adoption by the Treasury. Under the new system the mails were timed so as to arrive in London, and so far as might be in other places, at the same hour, so that the letters might be delivered altogether ; they were also despatched from and received in London at a time convenient to the Public, the mails hitherto having left London at all hours of the night.

The mail coach system proved in every respect successful, the speed of the mails being at once increased from three and a half to more than six miles an hour, still greater acceleration being subsequently effected. The improvements in road-making brought about in the early years of the last century by Mr. Macadam had, as may be imagined, a sensible effect on the mail-coach system. Before the year 1820 most of the roads were macadamized, and it was then that the postal service by mail coach was in its highest state of efficiency. As soon as any road was finished on

the new principle, the speed in the coaches at once increased. From this time the average speed *including stoppages* was nine miles an hour all but a furlong. These increased facilities for the conveyance of the mails, though they caused some additions to the rates of postage, immediately resulted in an increase of correspondence, as well as of post office revenue, which advanced steadily for many years afterwards.

The chronicles of the Post Office during the opening years of the Nineteenth Century are neither of an eventful nor an exciting character. The postage rates were high and varied, and transit to our modern ideas was shockingly slow. Nevertheless the business of the department seems to have increased to a considerable degree. So much so, indeed, that the old General Post Office at Lombard Street, which had long previously been the metropolitan home of letters, soon began to be found inadequate to its requirements. Agitation for a new building, which began in the year 1813, did not fructify until 1825, twelve years later, when it was decided to erect a large new building from designs by Sir R. Smirke at St. Martin's-le-Grand. The building took five years to erect, and was not opened for the transaction of business until the 25th September, 1829. That building is now known as the G.P.O. East, and is one of the three huge piles which occupy St. Martin's-le-Grand, and form the headquarters of the Post Office to-day.

In 1830, on the opening of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway, the mails were for the first time conveyed by rail, and the acceleration of the service by the use of the railway soon attracted much public attention. The railways, we are told, exerted but little influence on the Post Office arrangements for the first few years. But sooner or later the railways were bound to make their influence felt in many directions, and with the opening up of new districts in all parts of the country the necessity for the means of closer and more rapid intercommunication became apparent to all. The influence of the railways indeed became paramount, and thus in 1838 Acts were passed to provide for the conveyance of the mails by railways. The Post Office underwent many minor transitions in the first 40 years of the past century, but the change in the system of mail conveyance was, whether viewed in itself, or in relation to its subsequent effects on the postal system, by far the most important.

One of the most useful and important developments of this change was the introduction of the Travelling Post Office, which

enables much of the letter sorting to be done *en route*, thus saving much time. The first T.P.O., as it is familiarly called, was established on the 1st July, 1837, on the Grand Junction Railway, between Liverpool and Birmingham; and on the completion of the railway to the metropolis in July, 1838, the T.P.O. began to run throughout between London and Liverpool. Since then the system has been continuously developed, and Travelling Post Offices are now attached to numerous mail trains on all the principal lines, those under the control of the London Postal Service running in the aggregate about three millions of miles annually over the chief railway systems of Great Britain. By means of the Travelling Post Office many small and important places are served without the necessity of stopping the mail train for the purpose; apparatus being used which receives mails into, and leaves mails from, mail trains travelling at full speed.

It was not long, of course, before the railways absorbed all the mails, a circumstance which was the death blow of the mail coach system. The railway has done much to bring about the high efficiency of the postal service, but there can be no doubt that at the same time it robbed the service of much that was picturesque. The transit of the coach from place to place was ever a feature in the daily life of the inhabitants, and was always attended by many interesting little incidents. The annual procession of mail coaches in London was one of the gayest and liveliest of sights. "According to custom," says Hone in his *Everyday Book* for 1822, "the mail-coaches went in procession from Millbank to Lombard Street. About twelve o'clock the horses belonging to the different mails, with entire new harness, and the postmen and postboys, on horse back, arrayed in scarlet coats and jackets, go to Millbank and there dine; from thence the procession, being re-arranged, begins to march about five o'clock in the afternoon, headed by the general post, then letter carriers on horse back. The coaches follow filled with the wives and children, friends and relations of the guards and coachmen; while the postboys, sounding their bugles and cracking their whips, bring up the rear. From the commencement of the procession, the bells of the neighbouring churches ring out merrily, and continue their rejoicing peals till it arrives at the Post Office again, from whence the coaches depart to the different parts of the country."

It was shortly after the absorption of the mail service by the railways that the greatest postal reform of the century was introduced.

On the 10th January, 1840, Uniform Inland Penny Postage was established. The story of how the idea was conceived by Rowland Hill, how it fructified, and how in spite of several years of hard struggle it bore fruit, is an oft-told one; it will suffice here, therefore, to recapitulate very briefly the main circumstances connected with this great and lasting reform. Prior to the introduction of penny postage, the postal service of this country was in a far from satisfactory condition. Rates were high and diversified, and, except in London and some of the leading provincial towns, where cheap local posts existed, were almost prohibitive. The rates for a "single" letter, unless "franked" by a member of Parliament, were as follows:—

From any post office to any place not exceeding 15 miles				
from such post office				4d.
Above 15 miles, and under 20				5d.
"	20	"	30	6d.
"	30	"	50	7d.
"	50	"	80	8d.
"	80	"	120	9d.
"	120	"	170	10d.
"	170	"	230	11d.
"	230	"	300	12d.

And one penny for every additional 100 miles; while as regards Scotland, an additional charge of one halfpenny was made on every letter sent across the Border. Only "single," *i.e.*, letters written on a single sheet of paper, could be sent at these rates. Hence the use, which some of the present letter writers can remember, of the large square sheets of letter paper, folded in four and secured with a seal.

The use of an envelope or cover, or of two sheets of paper, or the transmission of any enclosure, rendered the letter liable to double postage, and two enclosures involved treble postage. If, too, the letter weighed an ounce, the postage was quadrupled, and every additional quarter of an ounce in weight led to an additional rate of postage.

Thus the postage on a "single" letter from London to Brighton was 8d.; to Manchester, 11d.; to Edinburgh, 13½d.; and to Cork, 17d., instead of one penny, as at present. But if the letter weighed just over 1¼ ounces the postage was, to Brighton, 4s. 8d.; to Manchester, 6s. 5d.; to Edinburgh, 7s. 7½d., and to Cork, 9s. 11d.

One of the many results of these high and varying rates of

postage was the evasion of postage altogether by illicit modes of conveyance, as well as by the abuse of the then existing franking privilege. In spite of the penal laws then in force, contraband letters were sent in enormous quantities; so much so that there were carriers who did almost as much business as the Post Office itself.

Here is an incident which forcibly illustrates the ingenious methods then in vogue for evading postage. The incident is related in connection with a visit of the poet Coleridge to the Lake District. Halting at the door of a wayside inn, just as the postman had delivered a letter to the barmaid, he noticed that after turning it over and over she returned it to the postman, saying she could not afford to pay the postage, which was a shilling. This the poet gallantly insisted on paying, in spite of the protests of the barmaid, which of course seemed quite natural. He was astonished, however, to learn afterwards that the envelope had told her all she wanted to know. It seems she and her brother had pre-arranged that a few hieroglyphics on the cover should convey all that was wanted to be told, whilst the letter contained no writing. "We are so poor," added the girl, "that we have invented this manner of corresponding and franking our letters."

Newspapers, which in those days passed free within a stated period through the post, the stamp duty covering the postage, were also a favourite vehicle for letter-smuggling. Invisible ink, too, was often used for inditing messages on the newspapers themselves, while short communications were frequently conveyed in the address. Letter smuggling was carried on to an extent that is almost incredible. A more favoured way, however, of evading the high postage rates was the franking privilege enjoyed by members of both Houses of Parliament. Originally introduced, no doubt, to enable members to correspond with their constituents, the system speedily became much abused. In assize towns people eagerly awaited the arrival of the judge to get their letters franked by him, and peers and Members of Parliament were assailed at every opportunity, and pestered out of their very lives for their signatures, which they seem to have given away wholesale.

The high postage rates, with their attendant abuses, had made the time ripe for reform. It is stated that the inconvenience which these high rates inflicted on the public was forcibly brought home to Rowland Hill by the fact that when engaged to his future wife he and she found it necessary, from motives of economy, to sacrifice

sentiment and to restrict their correspondence to a letter once a fortnight. However, that may be, he turned his attention, in the year 1835, to the matter of Post Office reform, and carefully studied the question for the next two years. The result of his studies was a scheme for Uniform Inland Penny Postage which he embodied and fully explained in a pamphlet entitled "Post Office Reform: Its Importance and Practicability," which he published in January, 1837. Rowland Hill's astounding propositions caused, as may be imagined, immense sensation throughout the country. The pamphlet circulated amongst all the members of the Government, and Hill was invited by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to explain his scheme. The opposition with which the plan was met in various quarters, and the agitation which it aroused throughout the length and breadth of the country are so well-known matters of history that it is unnecessary to dilate thereon. Suffice it to say that after a strenuous struggle of over two years, Rowland Hill succeeded in inducing the Government to take up the matter, with the result that on the 17th August, 1839, an Act of Parliament was passed sanctioning the introduction of Penny Postage. On the 10th January, 1840, Uniform Inland Penny Postage was an accomplished fact, the rate of one penny for letters not exceeding half-an-ounce in weight being charged.

The results of the new system were not long in coming, and history records that its success after it had been in operation two years exceeded even the most sanguine expectations of its most zealous advocates. This is apparent from the recorded fact that in the year 1839, the year immediately preceding the introduction of Penny Postage, 79 million letters were sent through the post, whereas in the year 1840 the number was 169 millions; and the number continued to increase rapidly in each succeeding year.

Commerce derived immense and lasting benefits from the new system, which almost entirely put an end to breaches of the law, while any illicit correspondence that was still carried on was purely in cases where speed was a consideration. As an example of the beneficial influence of the Penny Post on trade, it is recorded of a leading London publisher that he said that the Penny Postage stimulated every branch of his trade and brought country booksellers into almost daily communication with the London houses. Not less marked were the social advantages of the Penny Postage scheme. All classes derived distinct benefits from it, while to the masses it was a boon and a blessing. It aided, in a degree that can hardly be

gauged, all schemes for the amelioration of the poorer classes, and it afforded the greatest satisfaction to working men at the facility it afforded them of being able to correspond with their relatives. The Shetlanders, it is recorded, were delighted with Penny Postage, and though the desire of parents to keep their offspring at home is usually strong in Shetland, yet cheap postage had the effect of reconciling families to the temporary absence of their members, whereby the labour market of the mainland was thus opened up to the islanders.

From a financial point of view Penny Postage was at first not a success. But that was anticipated, and the loss of revenue was soon recovered. In ten years the old gross revenue earned annually from postage was reached; thirteen years later the old net revenue was reached, and the deficiency which had annually resulted was wiped out. Henceforward the plan of Penny Postage has continued to be an unqualified success from every point of view, and postal revenue has become a prop of no mean importance to Chancellors of the Exchequer in making up the National Budget.

Since the year 1840, when Rowland Hill's great reform was carried into effect, the Post Office has continuously been gathering strength until it has become the great and far-reaching institution it now is. It has been slowly and surely built up in all directions, with the result that the nation now enjoys the freest and fullest facilities in respect of postal matters. The Registered Letter Post, a system for the safe transmission of articles of value through the post, was an early development of Penny Postage. At first the rates were high, an uniform charge of 1s. being made—subsequently this was reduced to 6d., while in 1878 it was further reduced to 2d., at which figure the rate now stands. Many minor improvements, though none the less useful on that account, took place in the postal system in the years that followed the initiation of Penny Postage, but nothing of a startling or striking character took place until forty years later, when the late Henry Fawcett, who will ever stand out as a prominent figure in Post Office history, became Postmaster-General.

ARCHIBALD GRANGER BOWIE.

A.G.D.

(To be continued.)

Post Office Types.

I. THE INDIGNANT APPLICANT.

(A STUDY FROM THE RUDE.)

IT is open to every man to be an "applicant;" and no one, however humble his station or modest his grievance, need despair of reaching this goal. Given pens, ink, paper and the power of flinging adjectives at so large a target as a public Department, there is no reason why a man of the meanest education should not train himself to shoot quivers full of arrows at the great silent wonder-working Post Office, that Saint Sebastian among modern public martyrs—tied as it is by cords of red tape to the huge overshadowing trunk of the Treasury. At least that is the way some look at it, if the leader-writers of Peterborough Court are to be taken as chroniclers of history. But, apart from arrows and saints and Peterborough Court—an incongruous mixture at the best—the applicant's job is an easy one, and, in its higher developments, a singularly paying and popular pastime. For it is a commonplace in journalism that when other subjects fail, when a mental fog is over the newspaper world, when no Sister Anne on the top of the *Chronicle* office can see any Blue Beard (Armenian or otherwise) on the Eastern horizon, when the young men of the *Daily News* have sickened of slinging mud at the Catholic church and the *Standard* has killed the Pope five times too often in six months, when *Truth* itself is at the bottom of its well of fiction and the *World* hangs heavy on the shoulders of Atlas—when all these signs are in the air the permanent officials of the Post Office take some simple form of tonic. For they know full well what is coming. "When in doubt," it is a well-known axiom, "have a go at the Post Office." The heaviest adjectives are lugged out of editorial drawers, the home-made correspondent is called back from the seaside, and the game goes on merrily till some "regrettable incident" distracts public attention, or some interesting murderer calls the mind of the Man in the Street away from the real or fancied misdoings of that other great public criminal. And the dear old Post Office, how does it bear it all? Silently, quietly, it does the work without which, if it stopped for a day, the whole body politic would also stop, in

dumb paralysis. Silently it accepts day by day the proofs of confidence brought by the hands of thousands with their savings; silently it guards the millions of its trustful critics. Sometimes, but these occasions are rare, it pauses for a moment from the great strain of its earnest work and web-weaving to answer its assailants in a few too well chosen words; but these words (be it said with all reverence) are not understood of the people. They have all the cryptic character of speeches from the throne. They are written in the official Runic which illumines the Post Office Guide. They are for the select few, the *συγερói*: they pass over the heads of the many. For until it be broken, there is said to be a tradition among the official Gods that plain English is a barred and unknown tongue. At least, so their coolest outside critics say, and the calm critic is at times a friend.

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Now, one of the queer results of all these attacks—which are seldom to be taken *au grand sérieux*, and are merely the holiday gambols of young journalists keeping their hands in—one of the quaint results of this “sniping” at the G.P.O. is that a fair proportion of the ladies and gentlemen who write or speak their grievances to the Post Office adopt the same indignant tone as the paid men of ink. It is found by experience that a man who is a good father and indulgent husband, and what is called a “practising Christian,” will yet write to a public department a letter spiced with the greatest insult and innuendo, and that a lady, who is no doubt an angel in the house, will fly (by letter) in the face of the Postmaster-General with a violence which savours of the “submerged tenth.” It is all very pathetic, and a terrible waste of good wiggings. It doesn’t affect painfully the official who reads it; the nerve that once answered responsive to every twitch of the kind is long since dead. It doesn’t affect the inquiry made; everything is done that in reason possibly can be done. The grumblings, growlings, and expressions of anger might for the matter of that be written in invisible ink; the facts are gently dug out of the scolding letter, and dispassionately used for the applicant’s service, and in his or her best interests; the rhetoric is forgotten. It doesn’t affect the answer, for an official is an sexless being—passionless, unmoved; and the honest working answer is that of the patient ox, when the tiny boy belabours him with his toy stick. On the good beast goes, drawing his load; never (well, hardly ever) looking behind to see who whacks him, or with what ineffectual weapon. Rarely, if ever, is a fool answered according to his folly;

this luxury is reserved for after office hours. To this must be added that very few applicants are fools; they are in great part honest men and women who want something done, but who cannot resist the temptation to adopt the manner of the day in their method of approaching the Post Office. Now the fashion of the day is to say the hardest possible things of the G.P.O. It is the public whipping boy of the Departments, when the War Office isn't tied up to the triangle. And fashion is everything. As the century closes there are not wanting signs that the Treasury is to be the next Aunt Sally for *ces Messieurs* of the press, and it will then be quite the accepted thing to speak and write of St. Martin's with all that show of courtesy due to those unconvicted of crime. The target is, like the great Orion, sloping slowly to the west.

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Of all the angry applicants whose back it has been my pleasure to see, perhaps the fiercest was Hiram P. Chowne, of Angelica City, New York State. It is bad enough to meet the British taxpayer boiling over with just wrath after an unsuccessful scamper through the various warrens of G.P.O.'s West, Old, and North; but it needs a bold spirit to face, at the end of a tiring and draft-y day, the fine Western fury of a citizen of the United States. And he *was* furious. It happened this way. William Alexander, Irishman, poet, philosopher, cyclist, and temporary head of the Postal Order Section of the much-feared C.E.B., was sitting in his little crooked den on the first-floor of St. Martin's House, a most private, unofficial, and confidential-looking building in Gresham Street, London City. Now it should be known that, in those days, before G.P.O. North had its roof on, the C.E.B., like other great official rivers, had burst its bounds, and there being no room for others than the Heads of its bitter waters in the G.P.O. proper, little official lakelets had been constructed by means of semi-official dams in outside buildings in the streets of Newgate and Gresham. The front-door entrance in Gresham Street was not even festooned with red tape; the names on the wall were those of inoffensive traders. But midway between the placard of Messrs. X., the bill discounters, and that of the Rev. Silas Wye, the Samoan Island Missionary Agency, appeared these (or similar) mysterious words: "CONFIDENTIAL ENQUIRY BRANCH, First Floor." Whether there was a hand pointing upwards, or not, I cannot for certain remember; but I rather think there was, for one of our poor harmless jokes then current was that its delicate taper fingers were copied from those of

the present honoured Postmaster (and Surveyor) of Manchester. Be that as it may, it is not *ad hoc*, and I am perhaps *ultra vires* in alluding to it. Hand or no hand, there was the placard, so that he that ran along Gresham Street might read. And Hiram P. Chowne read, paused, and entered. It was just after five in the dusk of an October day, and all save William Alexander and a friendly colleague had fled the precincts. Then the door opened, and the head, followed warily by the shoulders, of Hiram P. Chowne appeared. Carefully he closed the door, and glided or sidled towards the unsuspecting William.

"Sir," said Hiram, "is this the CONFIDENTIAL ENQUIRY BRANCH?"

"Bedad it is," answered William, for it was after office hours. Hiram looked at me, hesitated, cleared his throat, and, mysteriously leaning over William's desk, began:

"Pleased to meet you, Sir. May I ask what—what are your charges?"

William pricked up his ears. "Charges!" he answered, "there are no charges. This is a Public Department."

"Snakes!" said Hiram, "you Britishers are ahead of us. But this gentleman——," nodding towards your humble servant, "Is also an official," snapped William, who wanted badly to get away.

"Pleased to meet you, Sir. Well," he went on with some hesitation and a transatlantic attempt at a blush, "I want you," here his voice fell to a whisper, "to keep an eye for a week on Mrs. Hiram P. Chowne, late of Angelica City, New York State, now domiciled in this City at the West End Hotel, Mayfair. And since your British terms are so blamed low you may as well shadow"

"Shadow, be blowed!" burst out the indignant Irishman. "What the blazes do ye take us for?"

"Why, private detectives, of course, ain't it writ large on the door?"

"Sir," put in William, "the door be hanged, this is part of the Post Office, and we are not policemen, thank God."

Then Hiram began to swear roundly, largely, fully, and in an entirely picturesque and Western manner. Bennett, with all the fine freedom of his generous heart, would not allow one-tenth of Hiram's burning words to brimstone these pure pages. At last the American applicant departed, muttering: "Well, if you ain't some sort of a Pollaky's private enquiry office,—you, why do you advertise

the dirty business on your dog-goned English door? Confidential Enquiry Branch, indeed! confidential noodles!" And out he went with a bang. William and I, exhausted and abashed, crawled out after him at a safe distance and slunk into Sweetings—that gentle refuge of all pumped-out postmen, from the days of Edmund Yates and dear old Frank Ives.

* * * * *

Yet one more indignant soul remains to be chronicled, pathetic perhaps, because of his sudden end—as an applicant. He was in the Post Office, yet—in a sense—not of it. From ten to five during many long weary years, illumined only by brief intervals of official sick leave, he had drafted answers to applicants, drafted, and yet drafted again. He had written "rejoinders" till he knew every trick and turn of his wily opponent, the outraged ink-slinging taxpayer. And he had in a corner of his shrunk official soul a keen longing to be some day an applicant himself, to "get at," so he put it, "those fellows in rooms by themselves whose salaries touch four figures." Then his chance came, as chances come to all of us, suddenly, unexpectedly. A letter from himself to Mademoiselle Chose was delayed, abominably, indubitably delayed. The tell-tale postmarks in their damning clearness filled him with a holy joy, and from a draft-producing machine he became a living, biting applicant. And such an applicant! Safe that evening in his own room at Tradescantia Terrace, Kentish Town, he brought out some fine headed notepaper, quarto size, handwove, and an envelope with those ragged edges that distinguish the envied and hated upper classes. He sat at his table one full half-hour. He let himself go. As a taxpayer, as a member of the public, as an *applicant*, in short, he poured the suppressed venom of fourteen years on the heads of that doomed gang—the Post Office, the P.M.G., the permanent officials, and the Treasury that backs them up. He inserted a specially venomous sentence (near the end) which he knew would bite hard into the inner consciousness of his own immediate chief; but this, after mature reflection, he expunged. He prayed the vengeance of Heaven (and the Duke) on the offending postmen, and demanded (after the manner of clerical applicants) the dismissal of the officer in fault. As a ratepayer he criticized the faulty management of the G.P.O.; as a ratepayer he took his coat off and went for his erstwhile chiefs. Then he dropped his bombshell into a pillar-box. It was Saturday night.

Monday came and with it moved the hand of fate. Duties change

in the P.O. as in the great outer world, and when he reached his supplementary chair it was only to find himself shifted to another. His new game was to answer applicants fuming about delays, and among his "new cases" (as the jargon goes) was a four-page production by—himself. Clearly the Gods were against him, and rising to the occasion, he wrote on the back of the letter these fateful words: "Read. Put away." Then with a sigh he scrawled his initials on the top left hand corner. Slowly the paper passed away to its living tomb in the Registry, and from that applicant the Department never heard again.

J. SCOTT STOKES.

S.O.

(To be continued.)

"SOME WORTHY DESCENDANTS OF THE OLD FIGHTING AND MILITARY
MEN OF THE METROPOLIS."



Messrs. Pitcairn, Mellish, Hatchard, Briggs, and Thomas, of the Accountant-General's Department, recently returned with the C.I.V.'s from South Africa.

Electrical Applications in the North East of England.

BEING THE INAUGURAL ADDRESS DELIVERED AT THE INSTITUTION OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS (NEWCASTLE LOCAL SECTION) ON THE 15TH MAY, 1900, BY THE CHAIRMAN, MR. A. W. HEAVISIDE, M.I.C.E., SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER TO THE POST OFFICE, NORTH EASTERN (NORTH) DISTRICT.

IN addressing you at this the first meeting of the Newcastle Section of the institution of Electrical Engineers, I have, in the first place, to thank you for the unexpected honour you have bestowed upon me in electing me your first chairman. There are other members of this Worshipful Company worthier than I, whose modesty has thrust the unaccustomed duties upon me; but, having accepted the position, I will do what I can to further the success of this Section of the Institute, whose interests are those of the fascinating industry in which we are all engaged, in such fashion as my slender attainments will permit.

I have thought that as the establishment of a Section of the Institute in the ancient city of Newcastle-on-Tyne earmarks both the place and the time, that, perhaps, it would not be altogether uninteresting to the members if an effort were made to locate in some degree the position held by the District, of which this city is the centre, in the electrical industry. To do this, by way of historical introduction, it is not necessary to go back to Thales of Miletus and his excited amber, but only to a more recent period which is scored all over with the honourable marks of discoveries and inventions which have mainly assisted in making electricity the servant of man.

WHO BUILT UP THE TELEGRAPH.—As we all know, the pioneer industry is that of the electric telegraph, which knits the world together, and is both the oldest and at present the most indispensable of all the applications of electricity. Like our venerable Queen, it came to the throne in 1837, where, similarly, it has reigned, with ever-increasing beneficence, ever since. In the

circumstances, and out of reverence for those who have done so much to aid present successes, a few moments can be well spared for just a glance at the discoveries and inventions needed for the evolution of the electric telegraph in its simplest form. All that is needed to signal the thoughts of the community from one place to another is the combined use of three things, built up of many parts—a source of electricity, a conductor of electricity, and an indicator of electricity. Simple enough in these modern days: every electric bell-hanger knows that, and sometimes knows how to do it! But consider what a mountain of labour and patient investigation over more than a century, from 1729 to 1837, before the discoveries of great men were combined by the Inventor in the production of a practical electric telegraph.

Just look askance over one's shoulder down the back entry of time. There are always the shadowy forms looming largely on the horizon of Gray, an Englishman, who, in 1729, discovered the difference between conductors and insulators, using moistened pack thread for the former, and silk loops for the latter; of our great Anglo-American Franklin, who, in 1752, with his kite in the sky, conducted the lightning to the earth, thus establishing its identity with electricity; of Galvani and Volta, the eminent Italians, who, from 1786 to 1789, developed one source of electricity, namely, "the Chemical Battery." Here we may pause for a moment, having learnt in seventy years how to produce and how to conduct electricity in an elemental manner. Then comes the achievement of a practical indicator of electricity—how to get it?—a somewhat complex problem. A needle, or armature of steel or iron, magnetised permanently or temporarily from any source, and responsive to every change in its electrical environment, yet controlled by man, a thing that no one at that time knew anything about practically, in a combined sense, though many lent wings to their imaginations in the effort to mentally satisfy the problem.

THE MAGNETIC NEEDLE.—I promised not to go so far back as Thales of Miletus, but, again, reverence for the past unexpectedly commands that I should go back farther still, but just for one moment, if only to say that the ancient Chinese in past ages apparently knew all about its properties. So to start fair, we find that Oersted, the Dane, in 1819, with the magnetic needle ready to his hand, made the first step; he deflected his needle by means of a current in a wire parallel with it, proving that currents and magnets have similar properties, whilst Ampère, the renowned Frenchman, in

1820, made another step by discovering that a suspended coil of wire carrying a current was a magnet. Then France, in the same year, in illustrious Arago, provided another link by temporarily magnetising soft iron during the presence of the current; finally Sturgeon, the sturdy Englishman, in 1825, made a last fundamental step, by placing soft iron into Ampère's coil, produced the electro-magnet of to-day, which in conjunction with a needle, or armature, is the basis of telegraphy and many other things.

THE INVENTION OF THE TELEGRAPH.—The mental activity of the twelve years following, which gave a clearer grasp of the laws of electrical action, is marked by the mere mention of the names of such giants in science as Gauss, Weber, Coulomb, Faraday, Henry, and Neumann, who also, in one way or another, contributed to the almost simultaneous invention of practical electric telegraphs in three great countries, viz., England, Germany, and the United States of America in the year 1837. June, of that year, gave the world Cooke and Wheatstone's 5-needle telegraph; July, Steinheils' needle, bell, and printed marks telegraphs; and, October, Morse's marks embossed on paper. With many apologies to the names of the unnamed illustrious ones, I must conclude this stride over a century and endeavour to show Newcastle's place in telegraphy and kindred things. But in passing, I would beg you to observe, incomplete though the list may be, how suggestive is the array of names and countries to which the contributors belong. How ubiquitous is science and its votaries! What a true cosmopolitanism and universal brotherhood exists, which took the Institute to Switzerland last year, and will certainly take most electrical engineers, including myself, to Paris this year!—forgetful of yellow-press politicians and their narrow statesmanship, which contract the humanities and tend to embitter one nation against another. I am sure that my audience is with me in crying, "Away with all such narrow and sordid feelings; let us breathe a purer atmosphere on a higher platform!"

THE APPLICATION OF THE TELEGRAPH.—In 1837, as I have said, a practical 5-needle telegraph was invented, but was soon simplified to two needles only. This invention was slow of appreciation, for nine years elapsed before a Joint-Stock Company was established to exploit it. However, in 1846, the Electric Telegraph Company started the combined railway-and-public-service, and in two years their operations extended to this neighbourhood, where they established a double-needle circuit from Gateshead to

York. At that time thirteen shillings and fourpence was charged for a message of twenty words from Gateshead to London, *via* York. The basis of this charge needs to be placed on record. One penny per mile for the first fifty miles, one halfpenny per mile for the second fifty miles, and one farthing per mile for every additional mile, with certain extras for portage and addresses. Now, as is well known, since 1885, twelve words cost sixpence to any place in Great Britain and Ireland. The nimble sixpence is the key to the carriage of lightning thoughts throughout the land. In 1849 the high-level bridge across the Tyne was completed, and with it came the establishment of an office on the Sandhill, about the site of Gosmas' restaurant. Newcastle's first direct connection with the Metropolis was in 1851, when it was temporarily established with the first International Exhibition in Hyde Park. The double-needle now began to give way to the single-needle and the Bain Chemical recorder, which were succeeded by the Morse embosser in 1858. In 1853-4 the Magnetic Telegraph Company, using Houghton's single-needle and Bright's acoustic bell system, a forecast of the American sounder, came to Newcastle with transmitting centres at Leeds and Carlisle, competitively reducing the before-named thirteen and fourpence to three shillings as the Newcastle-London rate. Another ten years, and 1864 saw the shilling, or United Kingdom Telegraph Company in local existence, using the Morse printer and the beautiful Hughes type-writer, invented 1853-4-5, which brought to Professor Hughes honourable distinction in every civilised country but his own.

But in 1867 a great advance was made: up to this time the usual controlling force in all signalling by battery contact, or interruption, was the hand of the operator which limited the speed of working on any wire to thirty or forty words per minute at most. Wheatstone knew that the speed of electric travel and the carrying power of the wire were beyond the needs of man, whilst the work then got out of the wires was below man's needs. His problem was to save both new wires and time by the introduction of a mechanical device, by means of which an electric battery contact could be made, broken, or reversed with great speed. These battery contacts represented signals, the familiar dot-and-dash of the Morse alphabet, which were recorded on a paper tape at one or more places simultaneously. He achieved this by first punching through a paper tape a series of contact-holes to correspond with the dots and dashes which form the alphabet, and by passing this tape through a clock-

work reversing battery contact-maker, transmitted long or short currents along the conductor which, at the distant end, entered an electro-magnetic receiver, whose responses were recorded in dot-and-dash ink marks. This invention was worked out by the aid of that most estimable gentlemen, Mr. Augustus Stroh, a veteran pioneer in the scientific construction of all philosophical and electrical apparatus, whose understanding of means to an end in electrical mechanisms stands pre-eminent. This Wheatstone automatic apparatus was first introduced for practical work in this country between Newcastle-on-Tyne and London, Edinburgh and Glasgow following after. Daily practical work is carried on with it at a normal speed of 330 words per minute on the local wires of this district, and between London and Birmingham, 600 per minute, can be reached. Of course, if duplexed, these figures become about 440 and 800 respectively. In actual working, however, there are practical considerations that prevent such speeds being attained.

In 1870 the Post Office acquired the telegraphs and introduced universal shilling telegrams, followed in 1885 by sixpenny telegrams. By the kindness of Mr. T. Stevenson and Mr. A. Mellersh, the Post Office surveyors of this district, I am able to give the following figures of the traffic of this district for the year ending March 31, 1900:—

Telegrams :—Forwarded.	Received.	Transmitted.	Total.
3,034,030	3,193,890	2,523,971	8,751,891

The first column is the money-earning one, and shows that, taking the population of the district at 2,000,000, rather more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ messages per head of the population originate in the district per annum, but taking the forwarded and received, the traffic of the district is rather more than three per head of the population. The wires provided in the district by the Engineers' Department amount to 14,889 miles, carried along 1,794 miles of route; 287 post offices absorb 823 sets of telegraph apparatus, and 1,244 private offices absorb 1,418. There are 155 offices in direct communication with Newcastle at the present time, and they are served by 104 wires. The National Telephone Company's amount to about 5,000 Exchange connections, using 6,657 miles of wire serving 32 Exchanges.

To continue our story, of course duplex and quadruplex telegraphy are largely employed. Gintl, in 1853, invented duplex telegraphy, but it did not come into practical use until Stearns applied a counter Kick condenser to it in 1873. O. Heaviside suggested quadruplex

telegraphy, which was developed by Edison and others, and was followed by the multiplex of La Cour and Delaney. In duplex telegraphy, as we all know, the outgoing current divides equally upon the apparatus nullifying local responses; consequently it is left free to respond to currents from the distant end only. Quadruplex is the addition to the latter of currents of two strengths, with selective apparatus at each end, which responds only to the current suited to it. In multiplex telegraphy, six or more instruments are synchronously and successively connected to one wire with such short intervals between each connection that practically each operator has an independent use of the wire. Newcastle has not risen to the dignity of the use of this apparatus at present. The search for various methods of multiplex telegraphy led to the use of vibrating reeds of different responses. A reed may be a tongue of iron before an eletro-magnet. Here we have the magnetic telephone *in nubibus*. The tongue may respond to vocal vibrations and be developed into a membrane of disc shape still more responsive. It is remarkable that there is a mysterious connection between the search for multiplex telegraphy and telephony, which just preceded the invention of the telephone.

THE GREAT NORTHERN TELEGRAPH COMPANY.—It may be usefully mentioned here that, in 1868, the importance of Newcastle-on-Tyne telegraphically was greatly increased in consequence of the Anglo-Danish, now Great Northern, Telegraph Company commencing operations. Their first cable was laid in 1868, by Mr. R. S. Newall, between Newbiggin-by-the-Sea and Sondervig on the west coast of Jutland, 335 nautical miles. The second cable was laid in 1873, between Newbiggin and Hirtsholson on the same coast, 430 nautical miles. The third cable was laid in 1880, between Newbiggin and Arendal in Norway, 520 nautical miles; and their fourth and last cable was laid in 1890, between Newbiggin and Marstrand in Sweden, 509 $\frac{1}{4}$ nautical miles. In addition this Company have two land lines to London, and one to Peterhead in Scotland, in connection with another submarine cable to Norway. The apparatus employed is one of remarkable delicacy (a first cousin to Lord Kelvin's siphon recorder, which is still more sensitive), called the undulator. Indeed, so sensitive is the arrangement which works through the cables and the land lines to Scandinavia at a normal speed of 80 words per minute simplex and 120 duplex, that great care has to be taken to avoid lateral inductive effects. Mr. John Mygind, who has ably administered locally the affairs of

this Company since 1868, can only view the introduction of electric traction with apprehension.

The Commercial Cable Company and the Anglo-American Cable Company have each laid wires to Newcastle to feed their cables.

Going back to 1859-60, at this time the Universal Private Telegraph Company exploited the Wheatstone ABC telegraph for private conversation at a rental. This was introduced into Newcastle in 1863. Out of it developed the ABC Exchange system, by which private circuits converging on a centre were joined together for conversational purposes. This was the forerunner of all telephone exchanges. Printing Court Building is the historic spot where this was first done in this country in 1864. Sir William Armstrong and Company, Thompson and Boyd, and Charles Mitchell and Company were the first to keenly realise its advantages. This magneto-electric telegraph took eighteen years to develop, from 1840 to 1858, and again the hand of Stroh helped Wheatstone. This instrument is really the baby of the alternating inductor dynamo of Mordey and others of to-day.

But in 1877 came the epoch-making telephone, the receiver perfect at a bound from the hand of Bell, our Anglo-American. Alexander Graham Bell somehow stepped in front of Elisha Gray, who was first in the field. The instrument has appealed more powerfully to the mind of the thinker as a physical demonstrator of the existence of electrical vibrations than anything before and up to the time of Herz in 1887. This instrument made the detection of long-distance induction practical for telegraph purposes, and preceded the no less extraordinary detector of Branly and others called the coherer. So great was the interest excited by the invention of the telephone, that in May, 1877, two of my staff, Mr. Frank Reid and Mr. W. R. Smith, needed no initiative to make the first telephones in this district from parts of the ABC telegraph. In September of the same year Alexander Graham Bell paid a stimulating visit to Newcastle, where already, with all our might, we were trying to understand the something called "philosophical toy." What to do with it, the pesky thing, with its marvellous sensitiveness? How to get it under control? It was such a libertine in tapping all hitherto invisible and unknowable electrical procedures, showing that beneath the outward calm the Heavens, the Earth, and the whole Cosmos were in cease-activity of vibration, partly Nature's, and partly that part of Nature, Man's.

A little bit of soft iron encircled with wire and a wee ferrottype iron diaphragm fixed in a case became the revealer of the mysteries until then only deductively dreamed of by the physicists, such as Maxwell, Lord Kelvin, and, perhaps I may be permitted to add, Oliver Heaviside, and others, running riot with the imagination of all investigators and forecasting that in the long run there is no articulate secret that may be unknown, the irrepressible telephone picking up all vagrant sounds of mechanical or Electrical origin, like the sleepless Fury Tisiphone at the gate, always on the watch to record, but not to avenge!

THE MICROPHONE.—Then Hughes, in 1878, crowned the telephonic edifice with the invention of the pencil microphone, nearly as we now have it, making a gift of it to the world, thus paying tribute to humanity, as he has since done by bequeathing his great wealth to the London hospitals. Of course from the first the days of the ABC were numbered, and the problem how to get the telephone under control stared one in the face. Just let us consider the place the telephone has in the world.

DEFINITION OF TELEGRAPHY.—Electric telegraphy is the transmission and reception by electrical agency of inarticulate thoughts by a pre-arranged code of signals representing the alphabet, say five signals per word. It involves eight elemental steps:—1. The thought; 2. Its writing out; 3. Its conveyance by messenger to the telegraph office; 4. Its transmission by dots and dashes over the wires; 5. Its reception by dots and dashes over the wires; 6. Its re-writing out; 7. Its conveyance by messenger to the recipient; 8. The understanding of the written thought by the recipient. 4, 5, and 6 may be, and are, multiplied enormously by repetition where the service is indirect. Though clumsy, it has done and does good work, is interesting in its complexity, and limited in application.

DEFINITION OF TELEPHONY.—Electric Telephony is the instantaneous interchange by electrical agency of vocalised thoughts, charming in its simplicity. It sufficeth not in this country through the greed of monopolists and imperfections in exploitation. This time will cure, as in application it is unlimited. The house-to-house telephone, nay, the room-to-room telephone is its inevitable goal. From May, 1877, to December 24th, 1880, much telephonic research work that would take too long in the telling was done at Newcastle, as well as elsewhere.

[Mr. Heaviside here recalls some early experiments in telephone working carried out in the Newcastle District. They bear chiefly on

the advantages of the "bridge" system of joining the apparatus, compared with the earlier method of joining "in sequence." The details are mostly of a technical nature, and, while interesting from that point of view, will scarcely appeal to the general body of our readers.—ED. ST. M.-LE-G.]

FINAL SURVIVAL OF THE BRIDGE SYSTEM.—However, the efficiency of the bridge system was drastically put to the proof by partial use in 1881; it survived the whips and scorns of time, and was finally adopted *in toto*. Stockton was the first exchange entirely joined up in this manner; a new post-office involving new construction was the opportunity. This exchange was opened on the 26th of January, 1885. The kernel of the system is that, by putting apparatus of great impedance at the intermediate points, vocal high-frequency telephonic undulations gave the short-circuit the go-by, whilst low-frequency call-signal currents operated the signalling indicators at the bridges *con amore*.

The operating in the Post Office system in this district is arranged so that over-hearing on the part of the switch-clerks is unnecessary. A system of automatic block-signalling by means of needle deflections tells the operators all they need to know; hence all the conversations are heard only by those whose property they are, the principals in the transaction. The clever application of hard-earned prior knowledge ensures business success; but if it leaks by the way, what then?

TELEPHONE TRUNK WIRES.—Telephone trunk wires were early introduced in this district, the first being between Newcastle and Sunderland, 1883. In October, 1896, when the National trunk wires became the property of the State, the Newcastle service had already reached 33, to which had to be added the National, giving a total of 68. Now they reach 72, and direct communication exists to 14 different towns. If to this be added all the towns now served by telephone trunk wires, the total is 303. In the Tees to Tweed district, for the year ending March 31st, the number of trunk calls reached 3,127,689. Post Office and National Local Exchange calls reach about 12,000,000 per annum.

LONG DISTANCE INDUCTION BY THE TELEPHONE.—Then came 1886. As already referred to, the telephone detection of inductive effects at long distances is marked. This is the so-called wireless telegraphy of the electro-magnetic order. It was always there; most people knew of it from the days of Faraday and Henry in 1831; but what they did not know was its extent, which, after all, depends upon the force of the source, the delicacy of the detector, and, to

some extent, the opacity or transparency of the medium. The telephone always asserted itself unblushingly in responding impartially to vagrant electrical effects. In pursuit of this Will-o'-the-Wisp, most people's trouble was to find time to step on one side from the busy humdrum of life to follow, much less exhaust, any one of the many avenues that revealed fascinating horizons that led to the joys of finding out Nature's secrets, and gave beauty of understanding.

[Here follow some details of the various experiments carried out in the Newcastle District on wireless telegraphy of the electro-magnetic order.—ED. *ST. M.-LE G.*]

COHERER WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.—In 1897-8-9 Marconi has, by combining the labours of Branly, Righi, Oliver Lodge and others, coupled with his own clever insight into the subject, signalled over great distances, truly without wires, for really what wire he does use may be considered as part of his electro-static apparatus. Of Marconi and his system, much may be expected, and all present must rise in admiration of the persistency and pluck of this young Italian in experimenting and experimenting in every possible way to achieve long-distance speaking with practical success.

In connection with the coherer which coheres in response to an electric flash, it is singular that Mr. Augustus Stroh has observed something akin in the adhesion of surfaces when traversed by an electric current (see the *Journal of the Society of Electrical Engineers*, vol. ix., p. 182); and it is sad that, misguided by the savants, Professor Hughes, the cruelly-neglected scientist, did not go further in anticipating wireless telegraphy than was brought to light last year. It is a pity that, like Cavendish, he did not publish his researches at the time.

We must now hurry forward to see where we stand with the other great electrical industries, better known than telegraphs and telephones in one sense, arising out of their control not being that of the State, or of the monopolist, but everybody's business.

NEWCASTLE INVENTIONS. LORD ARMSTRONG.—Let us ask what is Newcastle famous for in original work; well, first we have Lord Armstrong's hydro-electrical frictional machine of 50 to 60 years ago, showing the electrification produced by steam rushing through an orifice; and then we have Lord Armstrong's *magnum opus* of 1897 on the "Electrical Movements in Air and Water." Who in Newcastle is not justly proud of this venerable citizen, mathematician, scientist, engineer, and above all, one who does not live for himself alone!

The giver of parks and gardens, and the creator of the greatest private arsenal in this and many other countries.

JOSEPH WILSON SWAN.--Second, in the order of date, comes Joseph Wilson Swan, F.R.S., of Newcastle-on-Tyne, the inventor of the Swan lamp which assumed practical form in the autumn of 1880. From the days of King, in 1845, to the days of Swan, in 1878-80, many tried their hands at getting light from incandescent platinum, or carbon *in vacuo*. But whilst all they did established the soundness of the principle, nothing they did brought more than disappointment from a practical point of view. Mr. Swan himself laboured and experimented with the incandescent lamp in the decade 1850-60 with like result. He used carbon strips in loops and spirals, carbonised in Wallace's Forth Banks pottery kilns in crucibles filled with powdered charcoal, but the available mechanical air-pumps gave a bad vacuum for such a purpose. Yet, at this early date, Mr. Swan had grasped the necessities of the case, a cheap source of electricity, an excellent filament, and a good vacuum.

By 1877-8, the dynamo was entering upon a vigorous life. Arc lamps were being introduced daily, Jablochhoff the unrewarded being the first. In 1864 and 1870 Pacinotti and Gramme produced direct currents from ring armatures, Wilde's dynamo of 1866, and Wheatstone's and Siemens' dynamo self-excitation of 1867 were beginning to bear fruit. The telephone was invented. Planté batteries were coming to the front. In 1873-6 Crookes had shown how to produce high vacua with the Sprengel pump in his beautiful radiometer. Electricity was in the air, sparkling and iridescent as any sunrise. In fact, hopes ran high and the electricians of the day felt how beautiful was the world if only rightly taken. In these stimulating circumstances Mr. Swan resumed his researches in incandescent lighting, determined to solve the problem of the hour, viz. : the sub-division of the electric light, by the production of a lamp for domestic use that would, as it did, outrival Aladdin's lamp in the riches it has brought its exploiters. Early in 1879, Mr. Swan, whose charming acquaintance the telephone introduced, brought some lamps to the historic Post Office battery room for measurement of current and resistance, when it was at once apparent that filaments made from cardboard parchmented and carbonised were unsatisfactory, their resistance was low, the current absorbed was high, and the bulbs quickly blackened. At these interesting and never-to-be-forgotten tests, Ohm's law and multiple-arc were much in evidence, all theory and experiments pointing to low resistance conductors, and high-

resistance filaments as the solution of the domestic lighting problem. The filament was the crux of the problem, and as late as April 3rd, 1880, after much work in the meantime, taking four lamps as samples, their cold resistance was only 38, 45, 47, and 65 ohms, and $3\frac{1}{2}$ amperes only made them red-hot or a little more. But on June 15th, 1880, Mr. Swan gave me the pleasure of testing one of 120 ohms, and another of 118 ohms resistance. This happier result was brought about by carbonising crotchet cotton, a true filament. (In the meantime, it is interesting to note that Edison was more successful in his world-wide search for a vegetable fibre as a filament than Diogenes was in his search for an honest man. But then he did not use candles.) After this, Mr. Swan made such progress, that by the autumn, Lord Armstrong's Cragside House was installed with twenty lamps; and, on November 24th, 1880, Mr. Swan brilliantly illuminated the auditorium of the Institution of Civil Engineers, in Great George Street, Westminster, to the delight of a distinguished audience of the members of the Society of Telegraph Engineers and Electricians, now the Institution of Electrical Engineers.

Mr. Swan, during these three years of labour, was running a neck-and-neck race with Edison and Lane Fox, each on independent lines, none the less honour to each of them; and all Newcastle men are proud of the distinction that in their city one of the most valuable inventions of the Victorian Era was conceived and developed to a practical issue by Joseph Wilson Swan. Since then, at Bromley, in 1884, Mr. Swan invented the cellulose, or nitro-cellulose filament squirted into a coagulating medium, such as alcohol, without which the high voltage copper saving lamps of to-day would not be. This material is also the basis of the artificial silk of to-day. It is now produced in a viscous form that can be moulded, enormously increasing its use in the arts.

It is worthy of remark, that Swan foreshadowed the Faure pasted plate (which was brought in a box to Lord Kelvin from Paris containing a million foot-pounds of energy). At his lecture before the Literary and Philosophical Society of Newcastle-on-Tyne, on February 2nd, 1879, when exhibiting a crude lamp, he spoke of the need for storage and showed a modification of the Planté cell, in which there was the novel feature of spongy lead having been deposited around the frillings of the peroxide element previous to oxidation to form what is now called the positive element.

SUNBEAM LAMP.—Swan's domestic lamp suggested a large incandescent lamp as a rival to the arc, and early in 1887

Mr. T.W. Edmondson, a disciple of Mr. Swan's, succeeded in making the Sunbeam lamp, of from 100 to 500, or even up to 2,000 candle power; which, as a survival of the fittest, has managed more than to hold its own with its rivals. It is deserving of honourable mention as a Tyneside development, and as, in other lamps, the filament was the crux of the problem.

But to the Hon. Chas. F. Parsons the district has earned distinction by his invention in 1876-1884 of the Turbo generator (a far more original work than the last named). For the horse-power developed, it is perhaps the lightest machine in existence, occupying little space, perfectly elastic, dancing in its bearings, and said to cost little to maintain mechanically.

The remarkable feature of the Parsons' turbo-generator is its utilisation of the expansive force of steam in a series of steps by which its initial velocity of 2,462 feet per second is reduced to a final velocity of 405 feet per second or one sixth. Take a waterfall, it is theoretically possible to utilise the head without loss. Well, similarly, the fall could be used in a series of steps, the water losing its potential energy with each step. So it is with the turbo-generators. Take steam at a given pressure, with a corresponding velocity, provide, as in the turbo-generator, a series of steel-guide blades, and a corresponding series of interposed blades for the steam to impinge upon, the diminution of pressure with each step being probably but half a pound, the resultant circumferential velocity is one that is easily dealt with in practice, say 2,400 revolutions per minute which allows direct coupling. On the other hand, if all the energy is absorbed in one wheel, the resultant circumferential velocity gets beyond practical control. In the laval turbine, its 30,000 revolutions per minute must be reduced by gearing when practically applied, this limits security from break down to machines within and up to 100 H.P.; beyond that, disaster follows. In the Parsons turbo-generator, the centre of gravity of the moving mass coincides with the centre of the figure, or the geometrical centre of gravity on account of the provision made for lateral displacement.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING.—At the present time, ten large towns in this district, including Newcastle, Gateshead, Sunderland, South Shields, Tynemouth, Wallsend, Middlesborough, Stockton, Darlington, and West Hartlepool, have either electric power-houses in active operation, or in course of rapid construction. But I cannot stop to say much of them except the pioneer ones of Newcastle-on-

Tyne. In this city we have two services, that of the Newcastle and District Electric Lighting Company, projected by the Hon. C. A. Parsons, late in 1888, and that of the Newcastle-on-Tyne Electric Supply Company, projected by Dr. Robert Spence Watson in 1881, but not brought to a practical issue until 1888.

Taking the Parsons' Company first. The original turbo-generators are employed at a speed of 4,800 revolutions, the later machines only at 2,400 revolutions with a pressure of 1,050 volts, and a frequency of 80 periods. Last year the Company generated 1,571,650 units, and sold 963,622 units, and the peak reached 756 amperes upon an installation of 1,490,130 watts, the number of consumers being about 400.

The Newcastle-on-Tyne Electric Supply Company's plant is the very antithesis of that of its companion Company, the "District" where, as described, it is light, having velocity and elasticity in lieu of momentum or inertia of mass. That of the "Supply" is slow-moving and heavy. Horizontal compound long-stroke Corliss engines of 70 to 80 revolutions, and Mordey dynamos up to 300 kilowatts each. The engines, which are of Robey and Company's well-known make, and fitted with their trip expansion gear, have performed admirably, as it will be acknowledged by all present, when I state the following facts. That during the eleven years working, no main bearing cap on any engine has been lifted, and no new part has been supplied, excepting piston rings, and all the engines are now in first-rate working condition. The steam consumption may be said to average 16 lbs., with the low vacuum of under 20 inches. The larger units, of course, giving the best results. Similarly, the Mordey uniphase dynamos, 2,100 volts, have been equally successful. They are nearly self regulating, the larger units being the most satisfactory. As is well known, they are remarkably efficient, having the characteristic of steadiness under all loads. In 1899, the Company generated 1,517,311 units for the supply of an installation of 1,924,680 watts, reaching a peak of 497 amperes upon a sale of 990,551 units, the number of consumers being nearly 1,000.

But Companies use rubber cables, the "District" Company using a complete net work of high-tension single cables in iron pipes, and the "Supply" Company a net work of concentric cables in iron pipes. Rubber insulated cables if not starved, and treated properly, either wholly concentric, or wholly single pairs in a uniform atmosphere and a uniform mechanically protective environment give

little trouble. Both Companies have cable ten years old still doing excellent service. Both Companies are developing direct low-tension services in congested places. Dr. Watson's Company has two accumulator substations, one in operation, another on the eve of practical employment. They are experimental. If successful, both technically and commercially they will mark an important step. Accumulators may be charged when there is no other use for the machinery, and employed to take the peak off, and above all, during use, the possible troubles from running machinery are absent. The transformation losses are roughly comparable with the transformation losses in central distributing power-house schemes.

GENERAL REMARKS ON ELECTRIC LIGHTING.—Though so divergent in system the commercial success of both companies is nearly the same. What is the public to think who do not look below the surface when they observe, however wide the variations in the electrical means to an end, the results are apparently the same. Like Max O'Rell, when speaking of nations, we must not at present say that one system of electric lighting is better than another, but that they are different. Clearly, a variety of conditons demands a variety of applications, nevertheless, it is only a question of time ; the fittest will survive eventually and standard methods will crystallise. It was said of fascinating Cleopatra, "Age cannot wither her, nor custom stale her infinite variety." So it is with fascinating Electricity with a difference. Disaster does not follow her lovers—the British public pay the bill.

Nowadays, when electric supply is an assured success, every one can go to work with confidence, if only over-capitalisation is avoided. This is in the first degree the active danger of municipal undertakings governed by committees, all experts, of course. The need for dividends acts as the check in company undertakings, it tends to ensure both economy in capital, in production, and in maintenance. Production to serve a wide area of many needs assures continuity of load. This assures economy of production. An average of less than two hours daily use of all the machinery in established pioneer stations brings 8 per cent. dividend. But suppose we build anew on the experience gained. Cease to put down what now may be considered toy machines all in a row ; and tobacco-pipe chimneys, jealously watched by vigilant smoke inspectors catching the specks upon sheets of white blotting paper. Emulate the courage of the Americans, the Swiss, and the Continent generally. Do not adopt expediency, either as to site or anything else. Then that peace of

mind which belongs to solid far-seeing work overtakes the engineer and his friend the capitalist. They may smoke the pipe of peace with the imperturbability of a Turk and wait. It must come, every house will eventually have its electric light, as it will have its telephone. Purity, steadiness, and convenience save its extra nominal cost over other illuminants now, and continuous production will reduce gas companies' dividends from lighting alone to something exceedingly small by and by. Hence the future of the electrical engineer augurs happily. He, the maker of this good thing, who only the other day, and alas even now, is so lowly rewarded for his labours, as not to be lauded by his neighbours.

On the distribution side of the question there is a danger. A large central power-house, if there is to be economy, means high-pressure alternate-current transmission of, say, 50 periods uniphase, if it will do (by no means improbable in the near future), and more phases if it will not, to as near the point of consumption as possible, large low-tension services are to be deprecated, especially where coal is cheap. The fewer the transformations the better, and preferably of the static, than of the dynamic order. In other words, do not have moving parts demanding human watchfulness, except where it is imperative, as for straight currents for electro-chemical work. Alternating currents needing no brushes will do all the rest. This may be rank wickedness to some trade interests, but it is the goal. Simplicity is what is wanted, not complication. There must be a point where the cost of long-distance transmission overtakes the economy of centralised production. That point has to be determined. Our grandmother, the Board of Trade, will have something to say about that. We are not as free as the winds as in Switzerland, where a dab of red paint on an insulator on a pole supporting multitudinous services, marks sudden death if disregarded, locating, as it does, the extra-high-pressure service, and where magistrates rightly treat the idle breaking of an insulator as a crime, thus acting for the public interest as the British Post Office does when a penny letter is stolen. But the "great unpaid" treat insulator-breaking as a pastime: "Oh, you playful boy, don't do it again," or a nominal fine, is all that happens.

Motive-power by electrical agency is as convenient as going to the poulturer for your ducks, instead of keeping your own duck-pond. It is this principle that makes for success with power work. Nothing can stop it. What so cleanly, so simple, as getting all that is needed by turning on a tap. No space is occupied for installing a

steam plant, no capital locked up in its purchase, and no standing charges for its maintenance. There is no waste during holidays or strikes, and one care the less is borne by the user. This is the age of specialists, another name for the division of labour; without them the work of the world would not go on. Scattering of effort is dissipation of energy. The user with the specialist at his elbow is relieved mentally, thus brain power is released for concentration on his own speciality. What stands in the way is the loss at parting with a still useful old friend in favour of the new. It is the house-wiring question over again. Credit wiring, in the latter case at an enhanced cost in current to the user, until the capital is recouped is one solution. Similarly the development of good motors has reached that stage, that their hire and subsequent purchase will accelerate their adoption and eventual universal use. To produce confidence, all that is needed is wise selection and judicious application.

ELECTRIC TRACTION.—Of electric traction one can speak as eulogistically as of the bicycle. It is the cheapest, pleasantest, and most healthy in its effects of all road locomotion. No loss of time at terminals, a travelling station that passes one's door. One half-penny per mile in general, and one farthing for workmen's cars. Happily now it is booming in this country, and one sighs with relief that at last our conservatism has been broken down, and we shall soon be as our Colonies and other civilised nations are. Only build strongly, make a good, sightly workman-like structure, looking as if it fitted its purpose—then the cry of the æsthetic will cease, and the cloud of the benighted disappear.

I would like to express my unqualified condemnation of the extremely short-sighted policy of not starting with a double track right away in the busy towns of this district. It is only excusable where there is lack of width, and that is rare. The imperturbability of the Turk will not overtake the exploiters, or running engineers of that class of work. If they think so, as remarked in effect by the *Times*, when prompted by Lord Salisbury's criticism of the Treasury control of the War Office, they must be possessed of that incurable self-complacency which overtakes the public services of Great Britain.

A. W. HEAVISIDE.

Our Library Table.

[We draw no hard and fast line as to the kind of books we notice, but, of course, we give the preference to those written by Civil Servants.]

PARSON PETER, a Tale of the Dart. By Arthur H. Norway, author of Highways and Byways in Devon and Cornwall. London, John Murray, Albemarle Street, 1900. Price 6s.

IN this book Mr. Norway returns to his first love, the West Country, and this time it is not to describe hills and dales and historic deeds, but to tell a story of the great days of smuggling when Devon and Cornwall occupied an enviable or unenviable position, as regards that offence, according to the different ways in which Englishmen look upon offences against the law. In Mr. Norway's eyes they evidently occupied an enviable position, and he selects as the hero of his story, a parson of the Church of England, a very prince among smugglers, who aided and abetted these frauds upon the revenue, but who, on Mr. Norway's showing, was a gentleman and a devout Christian. If Mr. Norway had been born and bred an Irish Nationalist his hero would have been a Catholic priest of the Land League times, who encouraged his flock and his fellow countrymen generally to resist the payment of rent, and to combine against those who attempted to execute unjust laws. It is dangerous ground that Mr. Norway treads on, and such is the inconsistency of human nature, so powerful a glamour does the sentiment of nationality cast over our thoughts and actions, that we should not be surprised to hear that Mr. Norway was a Unionist, a man utterly out of sympathy with the Parson Peters of Ireland.

The present writer's sympathies are all with Parson Peter and the Irish Nationalist, but he warns less rebellious firebrands than himself that this book is a dangerous one and leaves a reader at the end in a position to enjoy Mr. Arthur Balfour's "Defence of Philosophic Doubt." In this respect it reminds us of *The People of Clopton*, by George Bartram, which we reviewed in these columns in January, 1898, and which was one of the most striking books of that year. Poaching was the Christian virtue extolled in that work, and it was done, perhaps, with a skill and a dramatic power that Mr. Norway does not possess. Every reader of that work earnestly prayed for

the success of the various poaching adventures: all the Christian heroes and all the beautiful women were with the poachers, just as all the blackguards and all the harpies were on the side of the police. So it is here in *Parson Peter*. The good and clever people smuggle and the bad and silly people try to catch them. We rub our eyes and think of our long forgotten Sunday School stories. Is it really a fact that so much Christian virtue and so much female beauty exists or existed among the criminal classes of Devon and Cornwall?

Of the story itself there is little to say except in the way of praise. It never ceases to interest, and one is obliged to read to the end even though the reader be a critic. That is great praise, and as far as we are concerned, it is genuine. The chief fault we find is that it does not convince, either as regards the characters in the story or the motive of the story. Even Parson Peter strikes us as a rather unreal and shadowy personage who is only made credible by slurring over the more questionable of his actions. In Walter Besant's *Chaplain of the Fleet* we have a parson of the old school who does convince us because he is placed before us, virtues, crimes, follies, and mistakes, all painted without mercy. Parson Peter is the hero of melodrama and he dies as a hero should do to the applause of the pit and gallery. "It may be that those who have passed on like travellers keep no care for the lovely places where they dwelt on earth, but for my part I like to think that the love with which Parson Peter loved his own town is neither dead nor mortal, but a passion, which by its strength and purity is too great to crumble in the grave, having, indeed, such likeness to the immortal spirit that it must needs survive and live within the other world as strong and lasting as it was when Dante watched the meeting of Virgil and Sordello on the Mount of Purgatory." We have quoted the last sentence in the book. Now the hero of this panegyric was a smuggler, and his accomplices carried fire arms wherewith to pop at the police. One is almost inclined to call for *Sandford and Merton*, not only on account of the greater simplicity of its moral teaching, but for the unadorned purity of its style. Let us add, however, that, as a work of art, the story should rank high and is worthy of Mr. Norway's already high reputation.

THE UNION OBSERVER. No. 10, Vol. VI. 8, High Street, Stoke Newington, N. Price One Penny.

THE Junior Civil Service Christian Union, which is well known to many of our readers, maintains a journal for its members which has

attained, for these days of short-lived periodicals, a quite respectable age. It certainly deserves our notice and congratulations. Unlike many avowedly religious papers, it does not regard brightness and humour as snares of the devil, and in the number before us there is a very creditable little sketch entitled *The Lady Clerk*. A boy would be scarcely human if his first literary efforts were not directed to the solving of the problem presented by the habits and ways of thinking of the opposite sex. And a boy in his teens is always blasé and cynical, and so full of disappointing experiences. There are useful notes and hints for the youths who join our big offices, who come for the first time to London; and we know for a fact how useful *The Observer* has been in providing a centre where boys, who are strangers to London, can meet and exchange ideas and find decent companions. We wish the paper long-continued prosperity.

DR. JOHNSON'S TABLE TALK. The Bibelots. Edited by J. Potter-Briscoe, F.R.S. London, Gay & Bird, 1900. Price 2/6 net.

WE noticed some time ago, in these pages, the first volume of the delightful Bibelot Series, and since the issue of *Coleridge's Table Talk* there have been many reprints of popular books in the same series. And now the publishers have sent us *Dr. Johnson's Table Talk*. Here is a chance for a comparison between Coleridge and Johnson considered as talkers. But the Johnson volume scarcely allows us to take this course, because under the head of talk the editor has given extracts from the doctor's writings, and has not limited himself to the abundant specimens ready to his hand of the great man's conversation. None the less, the selection and arrangement are excellent, and the book makes an admirable companion for the pocket. Dr. Johnson was not, like Coleridge, a great thinker: he gave us few illuminating thoughts which stir and stimulate the imagination. But he had a genius for common sense, and for directness of statement which was often sadly wanting in Coleridge. Johnson's rough and dogmatic utterances are always refreshing. His personality attracts us: we can picture him as he talks, and even when we see it in print the sentence carries with it all the power of the spoken word over the written one. "Sir, he was a blockhead!" is his contribution to a discussion on Fielding, and it is given the luxury of a separate paragraph by the editor. This we submit is a ridiculous proceeding if we are to accept the opinion as definite criticism, but who cannot picture the old man

gathering himself up and saying it? "Nobody ever laid down the book of Robinson Crusoe without wishing it were longer" is a well-known utterance; it is an example of the criticism which clinches and leaves nothing more to be said on the subject. And "Get as much force of mind as you can. Live within your income. Always have something saved at the end of the year. Let your imports be more than your exports, and you'll never go wrong" is a good epitome of his common sense philosophy. He never soars, never is attracted to the mystical side of things, never indulges in vain imaginings, and is solidly content with his Bible and Prayer Book as spiritual guides. But the curious thing about Johnson is that this absorption in the practical was not exactly the outcome of his nature, which was unusually superstitious and melancholy, while the fear of death and of the hereafter was an abiding possession with him. It was as a relief to this buried life of his that he wrote and talked as he did. He shut deliberately his ears to voices which only maddened him and sought sanity in the philosophy of every day life. And so it may be said of the man whose personality is more vivid to us than almost any other celebrity in our history, that when we think we know him best we are all the time only knowing a man who is consciously hiding his real self from us. There is another Johnson, and Boswell, at least, never discovered him.

THE CAPE AS I FOUND IT. By Beatrice M. Hicks. Elliot Stock, 62, Paternoster Row, E.C. Price 5s.

WE are all rather tired of books about the War, and of partisan treatises on our policy in South Africa. And here is a book on the Cape which has little or no bearing on the current events of the hour, but which throws a flood of light on many of the questions we are all interested in. Indeed, the most sensitive of heresy hunters may ransack the volume from cover to cover and still be in doubt whether Miss Hicks is an Imperialist or a pro-Boer. But she knows what the Cape is like to a woman who goes to the Colony to earn her living as a teacher, full of confidence in her own intellectual powers and possessed with the belief that South Africa is the place for the surplus women-folk of the old country. She owes the idea of her experiment to Olive Schreiner, and she goes out hoping to meet some of the heroes and heroines of South African farms. And after five years' experience she comes home disillusioned in many ways.

She has taught in schools and in farms and has wandered north, south, east, and west, has learned to love the people, Dutch and English, and to smile at their humours, but the dulness of and the want of intellectual interest in their lives oppresses her, until at last she cries out that South Africa has only produced one woman—Olive Schreiner. There are lively sketches of the Boers and of the natives, and of life on South African farms, while her frank confessions and her high spirits give a personal interest to the narrative. She tells us what she knows, no more, and in a corner of literature which is darkened by lies, this little book stands out carrying within its own pages the evidence of its truth.



Pardon, Monsieur . . . ai-je le droit d'envoyer un échantillon dans une lettre affranchie à quinze centimes ?

Ca dépend. Un échantillon de quoi ?

Un échantillon de mon écriture . . .



The Passing Years.

ONE of the latest amusements of suburban society, following on book teas, is the photograph party. You are asked to bring with you the earliest extant portrait of yourself, and on your arrival the photograph is placed on a table with others, and the guests are invited, with intervals for refreshment, to decide who is who. The sport provides excellent entertainment, and the attention that is devoted to one's features is often embarrassing, especially if during your life you have never been the object of anybody's admiration. Only when you have caught a glimpse of the exceeding ugliness of the portrait the young lady is venturing to identify you with, are you conscious that the play has its cruel side, and would be insupportable were it not for the opportunities provided for revenge. When a lady of seventy summers brings with her a portrait of herself as a baby in arms, the identification is almost hopeless; one has to judge by the style of the picture or the fashion in dress prevailing at the time, so get at the probable present age of the baby, and then find the lady of that age in the room. That is the method I adopted successfully with many portraits and it created great unpleasantness. Many ladies said I was to guess likenesses, not ages, and if they thought that their ages could be found out in this way they would attend no more photograph parties. I took with me a portrait of myself aged four years, and there was an extraordinary agreement on the part of the guessers that the said child was now a rather stout old lady who sat on the sofa during the evening looking very wise and benevolent. Such great changes do the passing years bring in one's personal appearance. The lady I took into supper informed me that mine was the easiest face in the room to identify, it was so expansive and had altered so little. But for all this she had connected me with a portrait of a chubby faced infant who at any rate in later years differed from me in the matter of sex. I said that I had spotted her almost as readily in an early Victorian portrait, which I pointed out, and she indignantly replied that it was her mother. "How clever of you," she added, "to keep the guess in the family!" I found that noses were the best guides to correct identification, but it required no little courage to stand in front of a lady with a photograph

in your hand and a puzzled rather than an admiring expression in your own face, with your gaze not directed at the eyes of the other person but on her nose. Frequently, too, you instinctively made your criticisms aloud. "No, this won't do, this is a straight nose," or "this is a small mouth," or "this person would not have such large ears." There is no time nor opportunity for admiration of personal beauty, everybody looks puzzled and bewildered, and one is reminded of pictures of Eastern slave markets where the intending purchasers are deliberating upon the physical points of the slaves. One lady came up and asked me beseechingly if I were Scotch. I replied that if there were anything distinctive in the look of a Scottish baby it must explain the obstinacy of the Scottish national character. She added, "You certainly don't look Scotch now," and I am not sure



E. B., AGED 4 YEARS.

whether she meant this to be taken as a compliment. I found out afterwards that the ug'ly child she had idealised as me, was photographed in Aberdeen, so her method was as unfair as it was unreliable. Besides I *am* Scotch by marriage.

There was a suggestion of melancholy in the exhibition of all these faded photographs of your friends as they once appeared. The passing years had in most cases obliterated early characteristics, and you became a convert to the idea that we shed our personalities as often as we do our skins. I often wonder how I should get on with my old self of twenty-five years ago, if we could meet each other and exchange confidences. We should have so little in common; we should disagree on so many points, and have little sympathy with each others pursuits. We should find we differed in politics, that we attended different churches, did not care for the same books, and that we did not admire the same women. I hate prigs and opinionated youngsters, and I should not be able to hide my disgust at my companion. By this very act I should probably reveal our identity and proclaim myself a prig, but only to outsiders; we never admit such things to ourselves. From my own point of view I have

travelled far in twenty-five years, but it is not so apparent to old friends. "Still the same old inky fingers," said to me a plain spoken man who had not met me for years. "You have very different opinions from those you formerly held," he went on, "but you advance them just as unreasonably and your temper in argument is no better." "You seem very attached to Angelina, a very different type of woman you used to admire, but so you were to that other girl, you remember"——Here I closed his mouth as I heard Angelina's footsteps at the door. "Still in the Post Office are you?" Identification of the past with the present was complete as I murmured with a sigh, "Still in the Post Office." And I entered the service of the Post Office quite casually, went up for my examination without the knowledge of my schoolmaster and partly to spite him because he said one day that my writing and my arithmetic were atrocious and no house of business would tolerate me for one moment. I think the proudest moment of my existence was when I flaunted a Civil Service certificate in his face, showing him that my writing had passed the examiners. Most of my official superiors have, I am afraid, expressed the same contempt for those examiners that fell from the lips of my master. I have often, in my turn, cried out bitterly to myself, "Why did they pass me?" "Why did they put a square peg into a round hole?" Oh! the passing years, and I, the leopard, cannot change my spots, though so much else has altered about me.

One of the best stories illustrative of the fact that the child is father of the man is that told by Miss Marris in her biography of Mr. Chamberlain. The humour is quite unintentional as Miss Marris places the story to the credit of her hero. "Mr. Chamberlain would have liked the glory of forming a volunteer corps (he was a boy at this time) out of the members of the debating society, but he did not join any other corps when his own project was announced impossible." Chamberlainites and anti-Chamberlainites can unite to laugh at this delightful story; it is characteristic of the man and is the explanation of much in his career that has puzzled even his admirers.

It is in little traits of character, such as the above, that the continuity of our individuality is most apparent, startlingly so, even to those of us who have wandered far and left our youth as we think behind. Portraits help us little; it is puzzling indeed to have to rely on noses and ears by which to establish an identity, while a habit or a mode of expression would reveal it at once could it have been preserved by some gramophone or similar instrument.

As with individuals so it is with countries: we grow older, but we present points of resemblance which stand out above the change produced by the passing of the centuries. If we go by the outward resemblance test, how can we identify the Britain of to-day in the first year of a new century with the Britain of Plantaganet or Tudor times? The change has been immense. But we are the same people. The satires of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries on our habits and customs would not be very wide of the mark if applied to our own day. Our insularity, with all our advantages of travel, is as

bad as it ever was: we are possessed by the same idea that it would be good for everybody to become British subjects, and we regard those of ourselves who express doubts on the subject as wanting in patriotism. Matthew Arnold said that his brother Anglo-Saxons "had a terrible way of wanting to improve everything but themselves off the face of the earth, and he had no such passion for finding nothing but himself everywhere." He quoted in the same connection a leading article of the dear old *Times* newspaper which is always so faithful to its traditions. "The Welsh language is the curse of Wales. Its prevalence and the ignorance of English have excluded the Welsh people from the civilisation of their English neighbours." And Captain Lambton, the Liberal candidate for Newcastle-on-Tyne at the last General Election, said that Dutch was the curse of South Africa, and the first reform was to compel everybody to speak English. Is this a new trait in our national character? Listen to Paul Hentzner, who travelled in England during the reign of Queen Elizabeth. "If they see a foreigner very well made or particularly handsome they will say, "it is a pity he is not an Englishman." He also remarks rather quaintly that the English seemed fond of loud noises, bell ringing for instance; they go up into a church tower, make a deafening roar, not apparently from love of music, but because it was good exercise. We seem to recognise ourselves in such a description: we shake hands across the ages with men of like mindedness with ourselves.

At a time when France was threatened with great disasters, a distinguished Frenchman, Baron Stoffel, warned his countrymen of the rocks ahead. In these days and in our country he would have been called a little Englander, or perhaps a traitor, but his utterances were justified by subsequent events. Let me give an extract, and let us ask ourselves whether his criticisms apply only to the poor benighted foreigner. "Imagine a child ceaselessly flattered by its masters, who continuously excite its self-love and pride by telling it that it is beautiful, that it is strong, that it is intelligent, that it is much cleverer than its companions, has more talents than they, and so on. What a sad result would accrue from such an education, and would it be astonishing if that child became an ignorant and conceited man? That is, however, an image of the education we all, as a nation, more or less receive. We are, with all our cleverness, the most foolishly conceited, yet the most imprudent of all the nations. Our self-esteem prevents us from studying and appreciating other nations, their language, their customs, their history, and our judgment of them is paralysed."

The twentieth century opens at a time when we are as full as ever we were of the characteristic tendencies of our race. Charles Lamb once said, "I am content to stand still at the age at which I am arrived. A new state of being staggers me." How he must have hated the idea of the new nineteenth century he was called upon to welcome when twenty-five years old! It is only unhappy and dissatisfied people who want change, who rejoice in the passing of time, who are always wanting to clean the slate and to begin again.

The nineteenth century is good enough for me: I distrust the dawning of a new era, as it is called, for our self confident race.

My own experience is that I am the happier, so long as I am in touch with my past, so long as I don't clean my slate. The landscape of our minds is formed in early youth and is rarely obliterated. It is a beautiful trait in old people the way their minds retain and hark back to the early days. When I suggest to Angelina sometimes that we should go to a service at Westminster Abbey, she replies, "Oh, yes! I know you want to think out an article: I can see by your eyes your mind is always far away when you are at church." In part she is right, for the old words, the old hymns, the old tunes, are mixed up with hundreds of associations for me; like a country, every tree and hedge of which we are familiar with, they speak to me of the passing years of all that has happened to me since I first knew them. They establish my identity with my past. I don't want to forget: recollection fills out our lives: forgetfulness reduces you to a creature of the moment.

Every New Year's Day there is an idea in many peoples' minds that one should make a fresh start, turn over a new leaf. How all this is intensified on the first day of a new century! The thought oppresses one and paralyses our energies. For my own part I don't mean to recognise the twentieth century until she has done something worth knowing her for. I am a child of the nineteenth, and I comfort myself with the thought that people of literary tastes don't recognise the artificial division of the centuries. We prefer to talk of "the Elizabethan Period," "the Augustan age of English Literature," "the Johnson Era," or "the age of Wordsworth." This is, I suppose, "the age of Rudyard Kipling," and, at the thought, I shudder and hug still closer my connexion with an earlier period.

E. B.



"ANGELINA."



H. L. CRESWELL.
(Secretary, Edinburgh.)
 (RETIRED.)



E. P. W. REDFORD.
(Secretary, Edinburgh.)



J. PHILIPS.
*(Postmaster and Surveyor,
 Manchester.)*



A. W. HEAVISIDE.
*(Superintending Engineer, North
 Eastern (North) District.)*

[To face page 78.]

St. Martin's Letter-Bag.

Looking Forward, 1901-2000.

BEFORE this issue of *St. Martin's-le-Grand* appears, we shall have passed into another century. It is a time for retrospection and anticipation. In the field of Science, prominent among the harvested grain gathered during the dying century, are to be found the various products of electrical engineering: telegraphy, telephony, electric lighting and traction, and others, all germinated and matured during the past hundred years. Are we justified in basing our anticipations for the future on the achievements of the past? If so, it will be a strange world that we should look upon, were such vision humanly possible in the year of grace 2000. Maybe the Post Office official of that day, after working the seven hours a day prescribed by the Treasury (for the Treasury, not being a progressive body, cannot be expected to alter its regulations), will ascend to the terminus of the Universal Aerial Transit Company, situated between the dome of St. Paul's and the G.P.O. (North), take his seat in the lightning air express, and be landed at his Lakeside or Welsh home in 50 minutes; or if he goes further afield, reach the Trossachs or Wicklow County in another quarter of an hour. He will probably derive such physical sustenance as he requires during his arduous daily labours from a pilule that can be stowed conveniently in his waistcoat pocket, and the G.P.O. (North) Refreshment Room may be devoted solely to smoking and dominoes. As regards business and private communications with each other, nothing more gross than ether waves will be employed to carry them. Telepathy and Telephotography (probably without wires) will be practical means, and at the service of all. To communicate with friends, it will only be necessary to think of them, and any required record will be made by the addressee, and not by the sender. The business of the Post Office will probably be confined to carrying parcels, for letters and telegrams will be unnecessary and obsolete. The "Postmaster-General's monopoly" will have become a dead letter, unless some specially acute law officer of the Crown is able to carry the courts with him in his plea that "telepathy" and "telegraphy" are identical, when possibly the incidence of the resultant impost may be reconstructed on the basis of a poll charge on the whole adult population of the realm, thus leaving a vast number of love effusions free from tax, or compounded by a permanent addition to the Income Tax.

But great as the probable changes will be during the coming century, and obsolete as will be many of our most cherished monopolies and regulations, there is nothing looming above the horizon to justify us in thinking that the need for a Post Office magazine will disappear with telegraph wires and tradesman's bills. Like love letters, we shall survive because we record what is valued for its permanent interest, and though such ephemeral institutions as Postmasters-General, Secretaries, and Controllers pass away, the Editorship of *St. Martin's-le-Grand* will still be a coveted appointment in the year 2001.

Report of the Cape Post Office.

THAT the report of the Postmaster-General of the Cape Colony for the year 1899 would be redolent of "Khaki" we had no doubt; and our anticipation has been fully realised. But we do not grumble. The war has touched the Imperial as well as the Colonial Post Office very deeply. A portion of the Press has not hesitated to say that the Government muddled into the war, and that the Post Office, so far as it was concerned, muddled the postal arrangements. The Government has defended itself; but our poor department has suffered in silence. We have no doubt, however, that its justification will proceed from the mouth of grateful Tommy Atkins when he returns to his hearth and home.

As might be expected from the operations within the Colony of such a body as the South African Field Force, the internal mail service during the year was disorganised to a great extent, at one time no less than one hundred and five routes being entirely suspended. A striking feature was the relinquishment of a large number of mail contracts which had in a good many cases a year or two still to run, and their renewal at greatly advanced figures. The effects of drought and the high prices of grain and forage were ascribed as the principal reasons for the impossibility of carrying on the services at the stipulated rates of payment. In some parts of the Colony, the available supply of horses and mules was entirely commandeered for military purposes to the detriment of mail communication.

One of the difficult problems which it fell to the lot of the Cape Post Office to solve was the disposal of correspondence addressed to the hordes of refugees from the two belligerent Republics. The risks involved in endeavouring to deliver correspondence to the rightful owners can be imagined. The Postmaster-General early grappled with the matter, and with the assistance of a committee of representative "Uitlanders" seems to have satisfied everybody. A special branch was organised at the General Post Office to meet the additional work.

As regards the Army Post Office Corps, the Postmaster-General, Mr. French, thinks that a better service might have been secured if the Army arrangements had been affiliated to the Civil Department, so far as the base office was concerned, leaving the military corps unfettered

to deal with the field work. The arrangements made by the Imperial Post Office were based on the experience gained in Egypt; but, excellent as they have proved to be, we think that there is something to be said for the suggestion that co-operation with the Colonial Post Office would have saved a vast amount of valuable time at the stage when the Army Post Office officials at the base office were, as a separate administration, dealing with the same work as the Civil Post Office but without the requisite local experience. However, everything appears to have been done to assist the Army officials by the loan of experienced officers to assist in matters of organisation and details, of equipment and office room whenever practicable.

A novel means of carrying on a branch service from Zwart Modder to Mier (Rietfontein) was adopted during the year. The maintenance of either a horse or an ox-cart service on this route, which fringes the Kalahari Desert, was found to be too expensive, so the suggestion was made to utilize the camels kept by the Government at the Uitvlugt Forest Station, near Cape Town. Four camel cows were accordingly sent up with the driver who had been in charge of them at Uitvlugt; and work was commenced forthwith. The driver uses two on a trip, one to ride and the other to carry the mails, the others in the meantime resting. The camels have not once been late; and the department is rejoicing at the success of the experiment, not only on this ground, but also on that of economy, the net saving by the use of the camel service being £94 per annum.

It is a far cry from camels to motor cars; but our go-ahead Colonial Post Office has also tried its luck with the teuf-teuf. The vehicle used was said to be of the very latest pattern; but it was found to be very often defective; and it broke down several times in the streets of Cape Town. Result—the papers in the case marked off for an indefinite period.

Needless to say, a vast increase of work took place during the year. The excess weight of mail matter dealt with at the Circulation Branch of the General Post Office, Cape Town, over the previous year was 783,621 lbs. The number of registered articles increased by 27,620.

A considerable space is devoted to the details of the settlement arrived at respecting the apportionment of the cost of the mail service between the Colony and the United Kingdom. The principal item in the agreement is that each country contributing towards the cost of the service does so on the basis of the use made by it of the mail steamers for the conveyance of mail matter other than parcels. The net contributions, excluding parcel payments, of the countries concerned work out as follows:—

United Kingdom	...	...	...	£47,950
Transvaal	...	...	...	18,162
Cape Colony	...	...	...	15,021
Natal	...	...	...	4,561
Orange River Colony	...	...	...	1,028
Rhodesia	...	...	...	565
Bechuanaland Protectorate	...	...	...	75

The Cape Colony, under this scheme, has effected an approximate saving of no less than £12,000 a year.

We have already, in a previous number of the Magazine, given a short notice of the mail contract which has been concluded with the Union and Castle Companies; and it will therefore suffice to mention that the subsidy paid to the combined companies is £135,000 a year, and that the contract is to run for ten years.

The section of the report relating to the colonial telegraphs proves very interesting reading, in view of the importance of the maintenance of this system of communication during a state of war. The lines have been cut repeatedly: and the section of the main line from below Belmont to Modder River was so wrecked as to necessitate entire rebuilding. It is significant to note that, at the close of the year 1899, there were 850 miles of line, 2,757 miles of wire, and 49 telegraph offices of various classes in the temporary possession of the enemy. The telegraph staff has played a full and honourable part throughout the disturbed area, either in assisting in the defence of besieged towns, or in repairing lines cut by the enemy.

The financial result of the year's working has naturally, in the abnormal circumstances, resulted in a considerable loss, calculations being made, of course, on a cash basis. The postal side of the service has been the greater sufferer through the war, the loss amounting to £14,355. The telegraph service shows a loss of £8,606 only. In this connection Mr. French calculates that the loss occasioned to the department by the interruption of communication with Kimberley, Mafeking, Vryburg, and other important towns amounted to at least £12,000.

The difficulties and anxieties brought upon the Colonial Post Office by the outbreak of war were unprecedented in the history of the department. The energies of the whole staff and the resources of the Post Office have been taxed to the uttermost. Nevertheless, the Postmaster-General is able to record that the ordinary work has been performed with almost the usual regularity, a fact which bears eloquent testimony to the manner in which the administrative and executive officers have carried on their duties.

R. W. H.

Report of the New Zealand Post Office for 1899.

FROM a Departmental point of view we receive each new Colonial Post Office report with a feeling of nervousness, or even awe. This is not to be wondered at. Our colonies are so progressive and inaugurate such sweeping reforms in things in general that the mother country is somehow, one feels, being led hither and thither as if she were in her dotage. And New Zealand, with its Old Age Pensions Scheme, etc., etc., is perhaps the most advanced of them all. Canada gave the Imperial Post Office a sort of galvanic shock with its precipitancy over the inauguration of Imperial Penny Postage; but her action pales before the latest move of the New Zealanders—*Universal Penny Postage*. But we are anticipating.

The financial year lately closed was one of unparalleled activity

in the history of the New Zealand Post Office. Postal and Telegraph business show abnormal increases, the latter being beyond the most sanguine estimate. The total balance of revenue over expenditure for the combined Departments amounts to £97,797 14s. 9d.; but, if the value of free official correspondence and Government telegrams be added, the credit balance on the year's transactions would amount to £203,424 13s. 9d. The number of letters posted was 35,032,452, which is equivalent to 46·31 letters to each head of the population. The total per head during the same period in the United Kingdom was 55·3.

The determination to introduce a Universal Penny Letter Post from the 1st January, 1901—the beginning of the new century, a period which the Colonial Postmaster-General says will fittingly mark the event and prove an epoch in the history of the colony—must without a doubt have created a peculiar situation. So far as the United Kingdom and the British Colonies and Protectorates, which are parties to the Imperial Penny Post Scheme, are concerned, the adhesion of New Zealand will make no great change in the existing state of things; but the matter wears a different aspect where foreign countries and non-participating British Colonies (*e.g.*, the Australian Colonies) are involved. As is well known, under the Postal Union Convention, the conventional rates of postage from one Union country to another may not be reduced without the mutual agreement of the respective Postal Administrations of those countries. If the New Zealand Post Office has acted strictly in accordance with this regulation—and it does not seem from the wording of the report that it has not—it has succeeded in arranging that on and from the 1st January, 1901, the public in France, Germany, and other foreign countries are to be in a position to send $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. (15 gramme) letters to New Zealand for the equivalent of 1d., and to receive replies prepaid at the same rate, whereas at present the rate is 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. (or its equivalent), and in some cases 3d., 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., and 5d. per 15 grammes. If the scheme is realised, New Zealand will, in the words of its Postmaster-General, have placed itself in the forefront of the civilized countries of the world. But we have our doubts. We feel that there is a screw loose somewhere; and we are interestedly sitting on the fence awaiting a fresh announcement from the New Zealand Post Office as to the fate of its ambitious scheme.

During the year a large amount of work was thrown upon the Post Office in connection with the paying of Old Age Pensions. Beginning the financial year with 5,846 payments, amounting to £8,360 in April, 1899, the figures were almost doubled during March, 1900, when the payments were 10,697, amounting to £15,255 9s. 10d.

Eleven officers of the Department were accepted for service in South Africa with the New Zealand contingents. The Department also takes a permanent share in the military defence of the colony, contributing to the forces an infantry corps known as the Post and Telegraph Rifles.

R. W. H.

Report of the Hong Kong Post Office, 1899.

THIS report opens with a general review of the Staff and their doings and misdoings. The Junior Clerks appear to be veritable rolling stones—22 joined the service during the year and 21 resigned or were dismissed. With the exception of two, one with eight years' service and the other with three, all the latter were employed for less than twelve months. We note an increase in the quantity of local and international correspondence dealt with as compared with the previous year. The sale of postage stamps shows a decrease which, it is stated, was due to the adoption of the 1d. postage rate on letters for the United Kingdom and the majority of the British Colonies. The Postmaster General believes, however, that the further increase in the volume of correspondence will considerably reduce this loss, if it does not entirely remove it.

The Pacific Cable.

AT last a great scheme, which has been actively discussed for many years, is to be made an accomplished fact. The tender of the Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Company for the manufacture and laying of a Pacific cable has been accepted by Her Majesty's Government, and the Governments of Canada, New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, and New Zealand. The amount of the tender is £1,795,000, and the work is to be completed by the end of 1902. The cable will run from Vancouver to Queensland and New Zealand, *via* Fanning Island, Fiji, and Norfolk Island.

The *Daily Telegraph* says:—"The total length of cable will be considerably over 7,000 miles, and the stretch from Vancouver to Fanning Island—approximately 3,500 miles—will be the longest cable in the world. The section from Fanning Island to Norfolk Island will be about 1,700 miles, from Norfolk Island to Brisbane 800 miles, and from Norfolk Island to the coast of New Zealand 500 miles. The American scheme for a cable between San Francisco and Honolulu has not got beyond the stage of having been favourably reported upon to Congress. In all the earlier British Pacific cable schemes, Honolulu was selected as the landing place of the first section, but on the annexation of the Sandwich Islands by the United States this was, of course, impossible, seeing that the cable was 'all-British.' The contingency of American ownership of the Sandwich Islands was, however, foreseen as far back as 1888, and in order to provide against it Fanning Island was in that year annexed to the British Empire. The new Pacific cable, which will form the longest link in the all-British telegraph route to the greatest of the British Colonies, is the most important undertaking of the kind ever carried out under a single scheme. The other long-distance cables were mostly carried out in sections from time to time, as the necessities of commerce demanded. The exceptions are the transatlantic lines and the recently laid cable from the Cape *via* St. Helena. In length the Pacific cable will be the longest direct wire in the world, as it

will cover a distance of nearly 9,000 miles in all. The manufacture of such a vast line is in itself a big task, and will occupy the greater portion of the time allowed for the establishment of communication. The actual work of laying these long cables is by no means so difficult as it was in the days when the *Great Eastern* steamed across the Atlantic with the first American cable. Improved methods and machinery have reduced what was formerly a most serious undertaking, accompanied by much risk of failure, to practically mathematical certainty."

Official War News.

MOST of our readers will remember the announcement in the *Post Office Circular* of the 31st October, 1899, to the effect that arrangements had been made with the War Office to have the latest news from the seat of war posted up at certain Telegraph Offices on Sundays. We believe we are not exaggerating when we say that the announcement took the form "no news" on about fifty Sundays. Indeed, a country yokel at High Wycombe was overheard to say outside his post office a few weeks ago, when, hoping against hope, he had adjourned there for news, "Woi doan't they 'ave the bloomin' thing printed?" The yokel's suggestion has not been carried out, but instead we have the following announcement in a recent circular :

"WAR OFFICE NOTIFICATIONS.

"The arrangement for these notifications on Sunday has now been terminated."

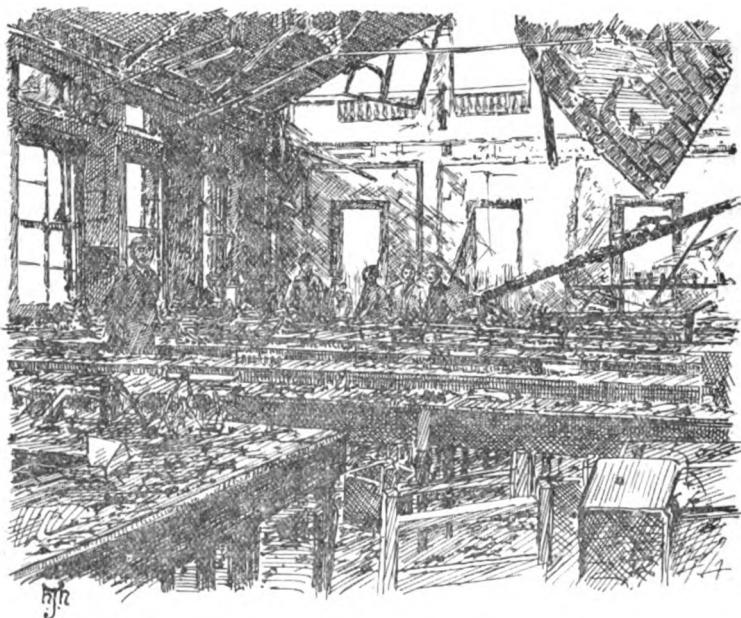
This notice postmasters were instructed to place in their windows on the following Sunday, and so for once there was something other than "no news" for the High Wycombe yokel to read. We think that the assurance of the War Office, at any rate, is sublime. We don't know whether it is the Post Office or the War Office who authorized the horrible word "terminated," but "some of us," we know from experience, are quite capable of the outrage.

The Fire at the Manchester Post Office.

AS announced briefly in the October number of *St. Martin's* (writes R.C.M.), a disastrous fire occurred in the Instrument Room of the Manchester Post Office, on the 19th September last. At about 1.30 p.m. on that date, a spirit lamp which was being used by some lineman for jointing wires in the test box at the north west corner of the Room was capsized; and the burning spirit speedily ignited the gutta-percha covering of the wires leading from the box to the various instruments. In spite of the efforts of those near at hand, the flames quickly spread along the wires under the flooring of the Room.

Immediately every hydrant on the top floor was manned, and water poured on to the flames wherever visible. The staff of the Postmaster's Office on the floor below also got to work with their hydrants, and a steady flow of water was thrown on to the fire from

the top of the Circulation Office. The flames had, however, got a good hold and began to descend the casing by which the wires enter the office from the street. Owing to the smoke and heat, the men worked in relays with cloth coverings to their faces; and it is to their gallant efforts that the fire was kept from spreading to the Circulation Office, whence, had it once gained a hold, it would have threatened the entire building. In a short time the Corporation Fire Brigade arrived, the street mains were tapped, two steamers got to work, and after six hours' fight the fire was got under.



From a Photograph by Mr. J. Light, Post Office, Manchester.

INSTRUMENT ROOM NORTH GALLERY AFTER THE FIRE.

During this time the staff had done good work. Volunteers to save instruments had been busy in the Instrument Room with screw drivers and wire cutters, and from amidst the smoke and flames had rescued the majority of the instruments. The staff of the Post-master's Office, despite the water pouring through the ceilings upon them, had been at work saving official papers and records, which they removed to a place of safety in the basement. The staff of the Circulation Office kept to their posts and received and despatched mails. Business was also transacted at the public counters with an utter disregard to the fact that flames were shooting through the windows on the top storey. In fact the clear-headed, cool, and zealous conduct of the staff generally cannot be too highly commended.

For some hours after the outbreak, Manchester was cut off telegraphically from the rest of the world; but at 5 p.m. a wire was got through from the Manchester Stock Exchange Office to London, and the Manchester newspaper wires were also made good, being tapped under the street and joined up. The basement of the Office was then fitted up with temporary benches. By 12 midnight Manchester was in communication with all the main towns; and by the next morning complete communication was re-established with all but the local sub-offices, which were connected a few days later.

Never, I venture to think, has the Engineering staff been called upon to bear such a strain, and never could men have responded more gallantly. Among the whole of the staff, no man could be signalled out for special mention, from Mr. Moore (the then Acting Surveyor) and Mr. Haskayne (the N.W. District Engineer) down to the youngest sorting clerk, telegraphist, and mechanic. Each in his own way did his utmost to assist in remedying the disastrous effects of the fire. A telegram was received the following day from the Postmaster-General, thanking the officers for their noble work.

A Snowstorm in the Shetlands.

SNOW fell incessantly during the night of the 15th February, 1900; and Friday, the 16th, will long be remembered in Shetland as the day of a fearful hurricane, accompanied with an almost continuous falling of snow and sleet which froze as it fell. When, on the morning of the 19th February, the mails left Lerwick (the capital of Shetland) for Voe, Mossbank, and Ollaberry, the roads were known to be very heavily blocked. The mails for those districts were despatched from Lerwick at about six a.m. On arriving at Frackafeld, three miles distant from Lerwick, a very heavy wreath of snow was encountered; the drift covered the road for nearly two miles, and was from five to seventeen feet deep. It was impossible for the horses to pass over this drift, and, owing to the peculiar features of the surrounding ground, they were unable to pass on either side. The horsemen therefore returned, and took what is known as the South Road, which passes near Scalloway, and makes the distance eight miles longer.

The road was very heavy, but the mails proceeded well for twenty-two miles until they were fourteen miles north on the direct road. The horses were then baited, and the drivers had dinner at Sandwater Inn. After a rest of fifty minutes they again started, and half a mile farther north came into a great snow drift covering the road for miles. An endeavour was made to get the horses to the side, and thus to pass; but this was found impossible as the telegraph wires were nearly all down, and lay entangled among the snow on the road. Finally, one of the horses stuck fast in the bank of snow and had to be dug out; after which they all returned to Sandwater Inn, and the horses were with difficulty put under shelter. The manager of the inn was ill in bed, and as there was

no fodder to be obtained for the horses nearer than two miles distant, one of the drivers was told off to carry sheaves (the only obtainable fodder), and an extra man was employed to assist with the mails. A door was taken off one of the office houses, the mail-bags were lashed to it, and the three men drew the mails over the snow until the next station, Susetter Voe, was reached, a distance of six miles. The progress made was about one mile an hour. This journey with Her Majesty's mails is altogether unique in Shetland for the difficulties experienced in getting over the long and tedious road.



From a Photograph by A. & A. J. Abernethy, Lerwick.

DESPATCHING THE MAILS FROM LERWICK POST OFFICE.

The Skerries suffered much in the same storm. They are a couple of islands called the West and East Isles, the most easterly of the Shetland group, and lying 180 miles almost due west from Bergen in Norway. The population consists of 136 souls, the male portion earning a living as seamen and fishermen. There is a school on the islands, the teacher of which acts in the different capacities of Church of Scotland Missionary, Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages, and last, but not least, Postmaster of the little community. His duties in the latter capacity are not arduous, as the islanders receive a mail but once a week throughout the year. In winter it is better to add "weather permitting," for the mails are

conveyed by a small boat which at times dare not risk the passage on account of the heavy tideways and want of proper harbour accommodation. The Skerries have been the scene of many shipwrecks, a notable one being that of the "Carmelan" of Amsterdam, which took place in 1664. She was on a voyage from Holland to the East Indies. Of all the crew only four were saved, and the treasure on board, consisting of 3,000,000 guilders and a number of chests of coined gold, went to the bottom. A quantity of the latter was recovered by the Earl of Morton, who incurred the displeasure of King Charles II. through his failure to account for it.

During the great storm of the 16th February, 1900, some coins were cast up by the sea at Skerries, two of which were submitted to Messrs. Spinks, the well-known numismatists, who identified one of them as being a Ducaton of Philip IV. of Spain and another as an Ryder of Geldria. It is possible that the Ducaton came from one of the treasure chests of the "Carmelan," but the Ryder must have belonged to a subsequent wreck.

F. M.

Lerwick.

The Isis Ladies' Swimming Club.

THIS Club continues to flourish, and held its 4th Annual Entertainment a few weeks ago. We are informed that a most marked improvement on the achievements of previous years was exhibited by the performers. Miss M. G. Robinson, the



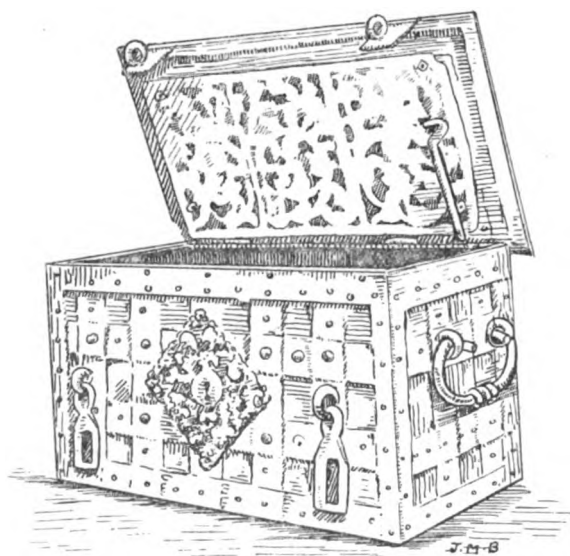
captain, won the 90 yards from scratch, giving 30 seconds to the first starter; Miss A. L. Vivian won the 60 yards and Miss M. F. Towers the 30 yards. The diving competition, which was keenly contested, resulted in Miss J. Towers, Miss L. Vantier, and Miss R. Skelton being declared winners. The life saving contest provided an element of amusement to the proceedings. Great encouragement has been given to the Club again this year by the kindness shown on the part of the chiefs, handsome prizes having been presented by Miss M. C. Smith, Miss F. Jacques and several others. Three members, Miss M. Ewart, Miss M. G. Robinson, and Miss V. B. May,

have passed the examination of the Life Saving Society, and obtained both medallions and proficiency certificates. Another member, Miss J. Schafer, also obtained a proficiency certificate.

We congratulate the ladies most heartily on their enterprise, and on the zeal with which they are acquiring the most useful and healthgiving of accomplishments.

The Custom House Chest, Carlisle.

THIS chest, which is now deposited in the Museum, Tullie House, Carlisle, was brought to light by Mr. Percy James, the Postmaster. It appears to have been transferred to the Post Office at Carlisle when the Custom House at that city was abolished some fifteen years ago. It was probably used by the Custom House authorities before banks were established in the city. The chest is one of a class of which specimens are not uncommon; several were exhibited at the Spanish Armada Tercentenary Exhibition held at Drury Lane in October, 1888; there is one exactly similar in the Iron Gallery at South Kensington; another almost exactly similar is



engraved in *Captain Cuellar's Adventures in Connacht and Ulster, A.D. 1588*. There are several in private hands, and to almost every one the legend attaches that it was taken in the Spanish Armada. Mr. Hugh Allingham, however, writes of them: "Having examined specimens of these treasure chests in South Kensington and elsewhere belonging to the 14th, 15th, and 16th centuries, from the earliest chests downwards, the same features are apparent in their construction and ornamentation. They were by no means peculiar to Spain, but were the typical and recognised receptacles for valuables all over the continent of Europe for many years. They were probably of Flemish or German manufacture." The chest is made of sheet iron and its external measurements are 2 ft. 7 in. by 17 in. by 17 in. A highly ornate escutcheon with keyhole is fixed

on the front of the chest, but is a mere sham without works. "As 'the cracksman' of the day can scarcely have been deceived into wasting his time over so transparent a sham, this dummy escutcheon, which frequently occurs on these chests, must be a survival from a remote past." We are indebted for these particulars to a paper read on the subject by R. S. Ferguson, F.S.A., the President of the Cumberland and Westmoreland Antiquarian and Archæological Society.

Lovers of Postal Literature.

A SUB-POSTMASTER of an office in Wiltshire recently wrote to his head postmaster in sore distress concerning the destruction of his Books of Rules by mice. His office had not long been established; but whether it was that the mice there had more leisure than the sub-postmaster, or that they had a greater liking than he for official literature, certain it was they had *gone through* the Books of Instructions with more assiduity than he could claim. After freely patronising that invaluable help to all classes in the Service, the *Post Office Guide*, the mice had dived deeply into the Foreign and Colonial Parcel Post Instructions, and had actually digested almost the entire Book of Express Delivery Instructions. Strange to say they seem to have thoroughly enjoyed the latter, which is more than can be said of the ordinary Post Office official, who considers that the rules governing the Express Delivery Service have yet to be defined in a simple and recollectable manner.

Bereft of his Books how could an inexperienced sub-postmaster be expected to carry out his varied and responsible duties? Recognising this, the head postmaster was compelled to come to his subordinate's assistance and supply him with another outfit. It is to be hoped that in future the sub-postmaster will, in his own official interests as well as the financial interests of the Department, provide food more suitable and entertaining than postal literature for the slim quadrupeds of his office.

F. TAYLOR.

Chippenharn.

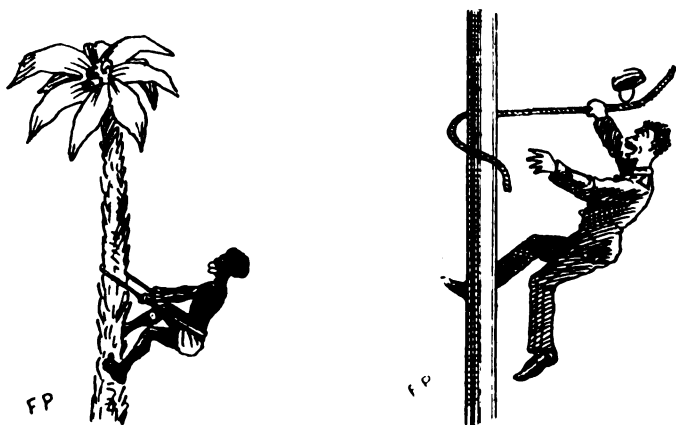
Flanagan's "Fagaries."

CORPORAL FLANAGAN is our lineman, and we are proud of him. When he is about dull care flies away like mists before the morning sun. Where he has'n't been; what he has'n't seen; and what he has'n't done (to use his own words), "wouldn't take much writin' up and cud be tied up shmall." His stories about himself are many and various. Telling us about his target shooting—" 'Flanagan,' says the Captain, 'it's a foine soger you are,' sez he, 'ye've fired tin rounds and only made one hit and that on the wrong target.' 'Be aisy,' Sorr, says I, 'maybe I'd be as good as the next man; sure I might fire at a private and hit a ginerall.' "

It was Flanagan's brother who, sleeping in a room lit by electricity, was shown how to turn off the light, "exactly like gas," as the attendant explained, and was asked if he understood. "Is it undherstand you mane," indignantly replied Flanagan's brother, "phwat the

divel d'ye take me for ? Ave coorse I undherstand ; but ye'd better lave me two or three matches in case I want to loight it agin."

Flanagan was much struck on reading an account of the way the natives climb the cocoa nut trees on some of the Pacific islands. He determined to utilize this idea in ascending telegraph poles. The attempt ended in disaster, as his rope broke, and when he was at last



resuscitated he announced his determination, " If iver oi thry anny more experiments on meself for the binefit of the Department may oi be waked without whisky, and it's the ruin and curse of the country is whisky, God bless ut."



Flanagan has exaggerated ideas of duty. When our postman sprained his ankle badly on the road and could not walk, Flanagan overtook him, and in response to piteous appeals for assistance, gravely took the mail bags from the disabled man, marched two miles to our office and then two miles back again. " Her Majesty's

mails are paramount," said Flanagan, as he helped the postman to a farm house fifty yards off, and then did the two miles over again with an air of self-satisfaction beautiful to see, such as Lord Roberts might have worn when he cornered Cronje.

A Scotch friend of his met him after a "birthday party." "Hey mon," said he, "y're lookin' no the thing just noo, come and tak' a mornin'."

"Take a mornin'?" wearily replied Flanagan; "bedad man oive been takin' 'em all night," and he drifted into the battery room like a boy going to school without his home lessons.

One of the junior clerks always came to the office on his bicycle, and for some reason he and Flanagan were always "jangling," and things were very warm sometimes. Once after a particularly bitter encounter Flanagan obtained a specially constructed light detonator from a friend on the railway, and placed it in a very smooth wide wagon track in the road much patronised by wheel-men, just about the time his enemy was due. Then he sat on the fence opposite and smoked serenely. Soon, a little cloud of dust in the distance and the bicyclist approached his doom. A loud explosion, a smothered cry, and the *Postmaster* rose from the dust and the wreck of his machine! Flanagan's astonishment at such an extraordinary and unaccountable occurrence—"It was an earthquake at laste," he at once declared—was only equalled by the assiduous and respectful attention, assistance, and sympathy he rendered the chief; and the reward he received convinced him more than ever of the correctness of his remarks on the target shooting, that he had "fired at a privit and hit a Ginerál."

Some other time we may put together a few more of "Flanagan's Fagaries."

F. P.

Ideal Post Offices.

THE ideal Post Office from Mr. Baines' point of view is a building which is a centre of light and leading for the surrounding country. Scotland already possesses at least one such place. In *The Christian World* of the 20th September last there appeared an interesting article entitled "A Scottish Coast Village," and the writer, after describing the characteristics of the little community he is writing about, speaks thus of the village post office:—

"The real centre of the world for us is the village post office. It does everything except the one thing which is supposed to be the duty of a post office—distribute the letters. That is done from a neighbouring village by a five mile-an-hour-easy postman, who when he has delivered our letters and returned to his own office a mile and a half away, has still a thirteen mile tramp amongst the scattered farms. Summer and winter, through snow and mud, in burning heat or freezing cold, he fulfils his daily task, and has never missed a mail nor caught a cold.

"But if our post office does not distribute the letters, it would be difficult to name anything else which it will not do. There the

chance tourist leaves his bicycle and his waterproof while he looks round the village and has a dip in the sea ; thither turns the inquirer after lost property or the fine weather which will not come ; groceries, draperies, stationery, tobacco, all are found amidst its inexhaustible stores ; anything will be provided within reasonable time, and 'prescriptions are carefully made up' at forty-eight hours' notice from the county town twelve miles away. The postmaster and shopkeeper is one of those willing, handy men often found in such positions, who are the acting representatives of Providence to the helpless visitor. He will take any amount of trouble for you ; never loses his temper amidst the thousand and one inquiries which assail him all the day long, and gives up part of his Sabbath rest—well earned—to leading the singing of the village choir ; this he does with an accompaniment of the foot which ensures excellent time, though in itself a little disconcerting."

In Retirement at Bournemouth.

THE suggestion made in the article which appears in another portion of the Magazine under the heading "Upon my Word and Honour," that the Editor deserved a church specially erected in



commemoration of his achievements, drew forth from the Editor the reply that if *he* deserved a church, his valued contributor deserved at least a stained glass window in the same building. The contributor with that readiness which everybody associates with him

sent by return of post a design for the window, and we here produce the same for our readers' approval. We gladly welcome the idea that in any gallery of Post Office saints the respective Angelinas should also appear. The Editor is only too well aware, when he thinks of the amount of copy his own Angelina has provided for him, that the church dedicated to his honour should have a name which would imply the dual capacity in which he has earned his reward; and in the case of the old colleague who is in retirement at Bournemouth, he also recognises the fitting nature of such a combination. Moreover, the Bournemouth Angelina sends excellent jokes to *St. Martin's-le-Grand*. She tells us, for instance, in an amusing letter of a daring bit of translation she has lately come across. "When William Tell, escaping from trouble and danger, took a boat and crossed the lake, he finally reached the Rettungs Ufer; this English version is 'He deposited himself in the Savings Bank'—a most judicious proceeding, I consider." Many people have graduated for a stained glass window with less to their credit than this story.

Mr. W. K. Bryson.*

WILLIAM KENNEDY BRYSON, who retired from the Postmastership of Dundee on the 23rd December, 1900, attained the age of 65 on that date. He entered the postal service in April, 1856, as clerk to his brother Robert, Postmaster of Kirkcaldy, who retired a few years ago. In June, 1859, he was appointed Chief Clerk at Inverness, which position he held for 20 years; and during his service there he witnessed the gradual extinction of the old mail coaches, as the railway was pushed northwards. In the early sixties he travelled for three years in the Highland sorting tender, and about that time took an active part in the dispute between the Sutherland and Caithness Railways and the department. During the dispute the mails were taken off the railway and conveyed by road from Bonar Bridge to Thurso, a distance of over 70 miles. It was then that boycotting was first invented, the victim being the Post Office, through the mail contractor, who was denied corn and stabling for his horses at every roadside inn in the county at the fiat of the Laird.

In 1876, Mr. Bryson submitted to the Secretary a scheme for the express delivery of letters at a fee of 2d. each. At this period the price of a telegram was 1/- for 20 words; and as it was feared that the introduction of the express letter delivery would injure the telegraph revenue, it was not then adopted. Mr. Lewin Hill and Mr. A. M. Cunynghame, however, took a warm interest in the scheme, and kept it alive until its introduction in 1891. A copy of a memorial addressed to Mr. W. R. Mitford, and dated July, 1876, in which Mr. Bryson formulated his scheme for this service, now lies before us; and we shall hope in a future issue to print in full this interesting and (as time has proved) important document.

In 1879, Mr. Bryson was promoted to be Postmaster of Kilmarnock;

* A portrait of Mr. Bryson appears in Vol. VIII., page 112.

in 1886, he was appointed to Perth ; in 1889, to Greenock ; and in February, 1897, to Dundee. Mr. Bryson holds many tangible tokens of the respect in which he is held by the officials and public in the towns in which he has lived and worked ; and he carries with him in his retirement the hearty good wishes of all who have had the privilege of knowing him.

Dr. J. Sinclair.

HUNDREDS of our readers know something of our medical officers at the Head Office, London, and of Dr. Sinclair in particular. Everybody speaks well of him, and of the kindness, courtesy, and painstaking attention he shows to all who come to him



DR. J. SINCLAIR.

for advice. Many are the stories we have heard of good deeds on his part, which are not in what we may call his official contract, and which do credit to his heart, proving to us that the last man to go under the evil influence of red tape and hide-bound officialism is the office doctor. He has recently taken his M.D. degree, and the members of the Controller and Sub-Controller's offices, London Postal Service, with whom he has been brought into close personal contact, have presented him with a full set of doctor's robes. Mr. J. C. Badcock, C.B., the Controller, made the presentation, and spoke of the many kindnesses that they had all received at the doctor's hands, of their regard for him, and of their pleasure at his acquirement of this new dignity. He hoped that the robes would prove useful if Dr. Sinclair were, in the future, called upon to deliver the Hunterian Oration or to preside over the meetings of the Royal College of Physicians or Surgeons.

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H. OSBORNE HARLEY.

[To face page 97.

Dr. Sinclair, who spoke with evident emotion, thanked the donors for their kindly gift, which was valuable to him, not only because the robes represented the possession of a medical degree, but because they were to him the outward and visible sign of the good will of his colleagues in the London Postal Service.

The late Mr. H. Osborne Harley.

BY the death of Henry Osborne Harley, on the 12th October, the Post Office lost one of its brightest and ablest servants, and his colleagues a true and genial friend. His illness was a specially sad one, and for many weary months his family saw the disease steadily breaking down his physical strength, while leaving his mind clear and bright as ever.

Harley was a direct lineal descendant of the Harley created Earl of Oxford by Queen Anne,—the family being of French extraction and originally called "Harlai." He was born in March, 1847, at Clonroad House, Ennis, Co. Clare, and was educated in Dublin. He entered Trinity College and here gained some distinction as a classical scholar, but left to enter the Civil Service. He took the first place in a competition, and entered the Accountant's Department of the Dublin Post Office on the 23rd November, 1867. He was subsequently transferred to the Surveying Staff, and became assistant to Mr. (afterwards Sir Reginald) Guinness, on whose retirement he became Surveyor of the Southern District of Ireland, and Inspector of Mails for Ireland, an onerous and important position in which he had responsibility for the Mail services throughout that country.

From Belfast to Cork he was well known, and while his ability, tact, energy, and power of organization, made him respected as a public official, his ready wit, geniality, and keen sympathy, rendered him a welcome guest everywhere, and he was a universal favourite. He had an extraordinary power of rapidly digesting a mass of complicated facts, and condensing them into a clear and conclusive statement.

Upon the re-organization of the Dublin Secretary's office in 1886, he was transferred to that office as Chief Clerk, retaining in addition the position of Inspector of Mails. His official and family connections brought him into contact with all the leading men of his day in Ireland; and his reminiscences of Sir David Haril, Sir Andrew Reid, Mr. Thynne, Charles Stewart Parnell, and many another Irishman of note, were interesting indeed. One of his intimate friends was the great wit, Father Healy, for whose racy humour and ready speech he had the greatest love and admiration, which is scarcely surprising, as his own gifts were very much akin to those of the celebrated Priest. His surveying experiences were varied, and in many cases exciting. In the worst days of the land agitation, he was nearly shot in mistake for an Irish landlord (who was afterwards killed), and only escaped from a dangerous situation by showing courage and presence of mind.

He was appointed Postmaster of Manchester and Surveyor of the Manchester District in May, 1892, and again showed his power and versatility by becoming as much respected by, and popular with, the keen hard-headed Lancashire men of business as he had previously been by the people of his native Island. On his part he soon learned to love the warm-hearted Lancashire folk, and would speak in the warmest terms of their energy and hospitality. One of the most loveable sides of Harley's character was seen in his home; and his delight and pride were pleasant to witness when the national anxiety about the siege of Chitral was relieved by the news that his eldest son, Major Harley, D.S.O., had led the successful sortie which relieved the hard pressed garrison, and enabled them to hold out until relief arrived.

The following valedictory letter to his staff is interesting because it is so eminently characteristic, and it is not surprising that he is said to have been "very popular with the officers under his control."

"21st September, 1900.

"My dear Moore,

"The time has come when I must say farewell to the good men and true who have stood shoulder to shoulder with me for the last eight years.

"During many months of suffering I clung to the hope that I might be amongst you all once more, but Divine Providence has willed it otherwise, and I bow to His decree.

"To yourself personally for countless acts of devotion and self-sacrifice, and to my brother officers of every grade, postal and telegraph, I desire to tender my heartfelt acknowledgments for good and loyal service ever willingly rendered.

"No chief need desire a better staff; no department more faithful servants.

"It now only remains to say the painful word farewell, and to pray that the Giver of all good may send to each and all of you blessing and prosperity in the time that is to come.

"H. OSBORNE HARLEY."

The obituary notices in the Manchester papers sufficiently show the regard in which he was held by those among whom he lived, but it is by his intimate personal friends that his loss is most severely felt. Always a sympathetic listener, an acute observer, and a wise counsellor, he had a fund of humour and a flow of spirits that made him at all times and in any circumstances the most delightful of companions.

The late Mr. Adolphe Cochery.

MR. ADOLPHE COCHERY, late French Minister of Posts and Telegraphs, died in Paris on the 13th October last at the age of 81. The death of this celebrated man (says *L'Union Postale*) has been much felt, not only in all classes of the French population, but also beyond the borders of France by all those who had come into personal contact with him. Most of our readers know the deceased

through his participation in the Postal Congress of Paris in 1878 and the Postal Conference of Paris in 1880, where he filled with much distinction the post of President. The services he rendered the Universal Postal Union on these occasions secure him an eminent place in the history of that Union.

The *Journal des Postes*, published in Paris, dedicated to the memory of Mr. Adolphe Cochery an obituary notice from which we reproduce the following :—

In December, 1877, he was appointed Under-Secretary of State for the purpose of amalgamating the Posts and Telegraphs and of reorganising the two Administrations, and in February, 1879, he was



MR. ADOLPHE COCHERY.

appointed to the head of the Ministry for Posts and Telegraphs newly constituted, where he remained till the 30th March, 1885, that is for seven years.

He outlived all the ministerial crises, and whenever a change of Government took place his presence as Minister for Posts and Telegraphs was considered as a necessity for the services he rendered there.

He, indeed, entirely transformed the postal and telegraph service during these seven years. He amalgamated the two services, transformed the general organisation, improved the situation of the staff, and especially that of the lower employés, revised the postage rates, lowered the postal and telegraph rates, organised the collection order service, the subscription to newspapers and periodicals, the postal orders, pneumatic telegrams, post-office savings banks, and the parcel post ; he increased to a large extent the number of post and

telegraph offices, improved the material, gave an intense development to all the branches of the service, postman, couriers, etc., organised the telephones before any other European country thought of organising them, laid submarine cables, increased the number of packet services and extended those already existing. Mr. Cochery did not limit the efforts of his great and fruitful activity to the domestic service; he also largely contributed to the creation, the organisation and the working of International Postal and Telegraph Unions, and he negotiated and concluded a good many International Conventions with a view to obtain easy and cheap postal and telegraphic communications.

The name of Mr. Cochery soon became popular abroad and in France, among the public as well as among the postal officers.

He was regarded as the great postal and telegraph reformer and as the symbol of progress in these various branches of the public services; he left in them the most vivid traces, and there are no meetings or festivities of the Posts and Telegraphs in France where his name is not welcomed as that of one of our ancestors whose work we appreciate and whose memory we honour.

Miss Jones of Holywell.

MISS JONES, who has just retired on a pension, is the fourth successive postmistress at Holywell (Flints.). The combined services of the four cover a period of considerably over a century. In 1864, when Miss Jones entered the service, the business of the Post Office was transacted in a small portion of one room, partitioned off for that purpose, and the whole of the town delivery was effected by a woman. When the Post Office took over the Telegraphs in 1870, Miss Jones was the first in her own office and one of the first in the North Wales District to obtain the bonus given by the department for quickness in learning the single needle instrument. During her tenure of office at Holywell the work of the Post Office has so increased that she has had twice to move into larger premises, and the present building, which was entered in 1895, is undoubtedly one of the finest in North Wales.

Miss Jones comes of a family which has given two postmasters, one postmistress and one sub-postmistress to the department, and that she has not been the least successful of the family was shewn by the kind notices which appeared in the local press on the occasion of her retirement and by the presentation to her by her Staff of a handsome gold watch. She retires with the good wishes of staff and public, and the sincere hope of all her friends that she may long live to draw her pension.

Mr. George Stabler.

MR. GEORGE STABLER, who recently retired under the age limit from the Postmastership of Sherborne, joined the service of the Electric and International Telegraph Company in 1856. After holding the position of Telegraph Superintendent at Lincoln for seventeen years, he was appointed Postmaster of

Sherborne in May, 1880. On the occasion of his retirement he received the present of a silver turnover dish from members of the staff in town and district, forty of whom attended to take a formal leave of their late chief and to make the presentation. In the



MR. G. STABLER.

speeches which followed, sympathetic reference was made to Mr. Stabler's long connection with the department and to the esteem in which he was held by the inhabitants of the town and district. We heartily join with the staff in wishing him health and happiness in his retirement.

Bravery.

ON the afternoon of the 26th of July last, a few young boys were amusing themselves at Kirkwall pier by throwing stones at the small fishes visible in the deep water, when one of them,



W. HUME.

named Alexander Mitchell, overbalanced and fell into fourteen feet of water. The cries of his companions attracted the attention of

William Hume, telegraph messenger at Kirkwall, who without hesitation threw off his coat and diving in reached Mitchell just as he was sinking for the last time. Hume swam with him to a ladder on the pier several yards away and helped him to regain terra firma. For his gallantry Hume, who is 16 years of age, has been awarded a testimonial by the Royal Humane Society, which was publicly presented to him by the Provost of Kirkwall on the 21st November.

* * *

LATE one night in January, 1900, as Mr. Alfred Shorrocks, S.C. & T., Manchester, was going home from duty, he heard, on passing a reservoir at Crumpsall, shouts for help from someone evidently in the water. It was pitch dark and a nasty winter's night, and Mr. Shorrocks could not see anyone; but after removing his overcoat he promptly "went in" and found a stonemason named William White struggling in the water. Mr. Shorrocks brought the



A. SHORROCKS.

man safely out, and with the assistance of two gentlemen, who had also been attracted by the man's cries and had just reached the water side, he proceeded to take the man home. White, however, speedily became abusive, and it then transpired that he had attempted to commit suicide, but had regretted his action when in the water. On finding himself rescued his opinion seemed to change again, for he once more attempted to jump into the reservoir. He was consequently given into custody. At the subsequent police court proceedings Mr. Shorrocks was highly complimented by the magistrates for his gallant conduct, and on the 10th December he was presented at the Salford Town Hall, Manchester, by the chairman of the Salford Hundreds Humane Society, with the Society's silver medal.

MR. ROBERT ANDERSON, of the Postal Telegraphs, Belfast, whose portrait we give, has been presented with the certificate of the Royal Humane Society for prompt and courageous conduct in rescuing a boy from drowning. On the evening of the 3rd July last Mr. Anderson was in the vicinity of the Donegall Quay, Belfast, when his attention was attracted by cries for help and the rush of numbers of people towards the quay wall. He made his way thither, and found that a boy had by some means fallen into the water, and that in spite of attempts to reach him with sticks and poles he was being carried out by the tide and was in imminent risk of drowning. Mr. Anderson immediately threw off his coat, plunged in, succeeded in grasping the lad just as he was sinking for the third time, and brought him to the quay in a very exhausted state. The action would probably have escaped notice had not an onlooker made some enquiries as to the identity of the rescuer and



R. ANDERSON.

communicated to a local paper a short account of the occurrence. The Telegraph Staff at once took steps to mark their appreciation of the act of gallantry, and on the 8th August, at a concert given in his honour, Mr. Anderson was presented with a handsome marble clock. On Monday, the 3rd December, in the presence of the telegraph superintendent and a number of his colleagues, Mr. Anderson was presented with the Royal Humane Society's certificate by the postmaster of Belfast, Mr. Sheridan, who complimented him on his courage and expressed the great pleasure he felt at being the means of conveying to one of his own staff that recognition of heroism. We understand that this is the third occasion on which Mr. Anderson has been instrumental in saving the life of a person in danger of drowning.

AS Mr. George C. Hatton, town postman at Weymouth, was on his way to bathe in the sea at Greenhill on the 6th of September last, he heard cries of distress from the water and immediately plunged into the sea and swam out some 25 yards to where a Mr. Alfred Hughes, of Weymouth, was already in extremis. Hatton succeeded in effecting a rescue, but not without great danger



G. C. HATTON.

to himself, as in the struggle he was pulled under the water by the drowning man. Mr. Hatton's gallant conduct was witnessed by several bathers who were unable to render assistance themselves. We are glad to hear that he has been awarded a testimonial by the Royal Humane Society.

* * *

MR. THOMAS ROSTRON, sub-office postman at Droylsden, Manchester, was, on the 18th July last, proceeding from the Fairfield Railway Station to the Droylsden office with the mails from Manchester, and on passing along Ashton Hill Bridge, which crosses the Ashton-under-Lyne and Manchester Canal, heard cries for help from the children on the canal side. A little boy named John H. Spencer, aged 7, had fallen into the water. Mr. Rostron called to two women whom he knew to take charge of his mail bags, and although unable to swim, jumped without hesitation into the canal and succeeded in rescuing the child, who on being taken from the water was unconscious. After using artificial means to effect the boy's recovery, Mr. Rostron left him in the care of the women, and completed his duty before returning home to change his clothing. For this gallantry he was in October last presented by the Royal Humane Society with their honorary testimonial on parchment.

The Children's Country Holidays Fund.

WE have much pleasure in placing before our readers a statement of amounts subscribed to this popular fund in the Post Office during the present year. The total here recorded has, we understand, been exceeded on one occasion only—viz., in 1896, when it reached £415—thus giving satisfactory evidence that the Fund well maintains its hold upon the widespread support of the Post Office. By means of the money thus subscribed over 800 poor children obtained the great benefit of a fortnight's holiday in the country last summer.

During the last ten years the Post Office has sent upwards of £3,450 to the Fund—made up of small sums ranging downwards from a prescribed maximum of 2s. 6d. to 1d.

Office.	Amount. £ s. d.	Office.	Amount. £ s. d.
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Registry	2 2 6	District Offices, London—	
Accountant General's De- partment	27 10 5	<i>continued:—</i>	
Savings Bank, Men's Staff	20 10 4	Western	16 8 3
„ Women's Staff	20 14 6	North Western	21 15 6
Returned Letter Office ...	2 18 3	Paddington	23 18 0
London Postal Service, Con- troller's Office	14 3 0	West Central	9 17 6
Inland, East Central and Branch Offices	45 1 9	Battersea	7 3 9
Money Order Office	4 19 3	Norwood	5 8 11
Medical Department	0 14 0	Provincial Surveyor's De- partment—	
Controller of Postal Stores Department	3 18 2	North Eastern	1 3 6
Controller of Telegraph Stores Department—		North Western	1 7 6
Controller's Office	2 6 0	North Wales	1 3 6
General Factory	2 2 0	South Wales	1 17 6
Instrument Factory	1 11 6	North Midland	1 0 0
Central Telegraph Office ...	27 12 7	South Midland	0 15 0
Engineer-in-Chief's Office ...	3 12 4	South Eastern	1 10 6
District Offices, London—		South Western	1 6 0
South Western	32 6 11	Western	1 13 0
South Eastern	27 16 11	Eastern	1 0 0
Eastern	36 1 0	Northern Scotland ...	0 15 6
Northern	14 8 3	Southern Scotland ...	0 15 0
Carried forward ...	306 1 2	Midland Scotland ...	0 10 0
		Northern Ireland ...	0 12 6
		Southern Ireland ...	0 15 0
		Mr. Mahon	0 2 6
		Mrs. Mahon	0 2 6
		Total	407 2 7

The Savings Bank Messenger Boys.

ON the 4th December the Postmaster-General inspected the Savings Bank Messengers' Drilling Corps, a picturesque and interesting function which, although of sufficient importance to be graced by the presence of the Marquis of Londonderry in person, appears to have escaped the observation of those of our contemporaries who profess to record the doings of the Civil Service.

The inspection took place in the Drill Hall of the 2nd London Rifles, kindly lent for the occasion by the Commanding Officer, Colonel Grene. After the corps had been successfully conducted through a series of military manœuvres by Captain Brett, a squad of the gymnasium class gave a highly finished exhibition of dumbbell and Indian club exercises. The Marquis then addressed the boys, and in the course of his speech, the theme of which was "be good," he congratulated them on their smart appearance and their good fortune in being under the guidance of so energetic and capable an officer. Mr. Lang replied, and in speaking of the development of the corps paid a very warm tribute to the memory of the late Captain Warren, its former officer. He thanked the Marquis on behalf of the boys, who were then dismissed by Captain Brett, after which a small and distinguished company wound up the business of the evening by examining one of Colonel Grene's new maxims. They evinced an intelligent interest in the mechanism of the weapon, but at the same time a wholesome respect for its business end was noticeable.

Civil Service Insurance Society.

SIR R. H. KNOX, K.C.B., the Under-Secretary of State for War, presided at the half-yearly meeting of the council of this Society, held at the War Office, on Friday, 26th October last. Amongst the councillors present were V. Corry (Secretariat) and C. S. Keen (Central Telegraphs). The management committee had the pleasure to report that steady progress continues to be made in all branches of the Society's business.

In the following table, a comparative statement is given of the life insurances effected during the nine months from 1st January to 30th September in each of the last six years :—

Period (9 months) ended 30th September.	Number of Policies Issued.	Sum Assured. £
1894	428	110,800
1895	518	143,900
1896	663	164,500
1897	673	175,000
1898	620	167,900
1899	722	190,000
1900	618	168,100

The total amount of the life insurance business of this Society since its establishment in 1890 is as follows :—

Number of Policies issued	...	...	...	17,615
Sum assured	...	...	...	£4,691,500
Present Annual Premium (gross)	...	...	...	£170,000

The amount of business in each of the Fire, Burglary and Accident Insurance branches continues to show a steady increase; and there is every indication that the sum which will be available for transfer to the supplemental income of the Widows' and Orphans' Annuity

Society in respect of the current year's business will be as large as that for the year 1899.

The chairman stated that, in regard to general business, the committee are of opinion that it is desirable to take steps to obtain the amendment of the Articles of Association of the Society as regards certain points of detail [meetings, retirement of members, &c.] which he (Sir R. H. Knox) explained to the meeting. The council approved generally of the amendments referred to, and the committee are proceeding to take necessary steps to submit to the council, on an early date in the prescribed form, the amendments they would recommend.

Irish Post Office Annual Dinner.

THE Annual Dinner of the major establishment of the Post Office in Ireland was held in Dublin on Saturday, 24th November last. Mr. R. A. Egerton (Secretary, Dublin) presided, and about 60 officers were present. After dinner, the chairman gave the toast of "The Queen," which was loyally honoured. Dr. FitzGibbon (Medical Officer, Dublin) proposed "The Postmaster-General," which was suitably replied to by Mr. Egerton on behalf of Lord Londonderry. In proposing "The Secretary," Mr. McMahon (Accountant's Office) alluded to the very cordial relations which exist between Mr. Egerton and his staff, and the many good qualities by which the Secretary has endeared himself to all those who come in contact with him either officially or privately. Mr. Egerton, in returning thanks, stated that while the work attaching to a post such as he held was naturally somewhat arduous, still his labours were to a great extent lightened by the loyalty and devotion to duty of his subordinates, and their hearty co-operation with him in all he undertook. The toast of "The Service" brought up Mr. G. G. Kent (Postmaster of Cork), who treated his subject in an exceedingly effective manner. The response was entrusted to Mr. Baillie Gage (Solicitor, Dublin) and Mr. R. J. H. Mahon (Surveyor, Midland District), who acquitted themselves admirably, the former gentleman being especially brilliant and entertaining.

The very artistic menu-card, which was much admired during the evening, was designed by Mr. W. McSweeney, of the Secretary's Office.

Odds and Ends.

AT a certain town in the North of England the Postmaster was one day the recipient of the following memorial signed by nineteen of his boy messengers. "Sir, Would you kindly let us know if Mr. — is our superior. He comes in every day and bullies us. If we go out and leave our meals on the table, he puts them on the top of the oven, and when we come back it is not fit to eat. He puts our dishes underneath the trough and does many other things." We like the "does many other things": most of us

have felt in drawing up memorials to the Postmaster-General the need of some such phrase to express the fact that our fund of grievances is inexhaustible.

* * *

A POST OFFICE correspondent, who had received the usual acknowledgment of his letter, that "the matter would receive attention," replied that this was the answer he invariably obtained to all his letters to the Post Office, and that he was dissatisfied. He added: "I suppose that if I wrote to wish you a Happy Christmas and a Bright New Year, I should be assured by return of post that the matter would receive attention." We think he is wrong. We should of course tell him that the facts contained in his letter had been noted.

* * *

WE have before us the second and third issues of the *Aberdeen Post Office Magazine*, which fully sustain the promise of the first number. The illustrations are excellent and, although we detect a slight tendency towards the snappy-snappety school of journalism, this is pardonable in Scotchmen, who are usually supposed to exhibit a preference for long sermons and intellectual food of the most solid kind.

* * *

WITHIN the last few weeks yet another journal dealing with service questions has come into existence. *The Civil Service Times* is energetic and ambitious, and one of its best features from our point of view is the admirable way in which it is illustrated. A series of interviews with "Distinguished Civil Servants," with their portraits, and in the case of artists, with specimens of their work, is proving interesting. The faults of the journal are those of youth, a tendency to recklessness of statement, and a certain over-eagerness in the pursuit of good copy. We have suffered from the same complaints ourselves and they are not incurable.

* * *

AT the moment of going to press we have received from Mr. G. Russell Nash, who is well known to our readers in connection with the Civil Service Musical Instrument Association, particulars of the Civil Service Easy Purchase Society. The object is "to enable Civil Servants and others to purchase on easy, equitable and liberal terms the pianos and organs sold by the Civil Service Musical Instrument Association Limited, who deal for strict cash only." The success which has attended the various Share Purchase Societies connected with the Civil Service has doubtless encouraged the promoters of this new Society. The office is at 236, High Holborn, W.C.

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RANGOON.—Many thanks for *Rangoon Times* of 25th October. We may refer to the Postman's Petition contained therein in another issue.

[NOTE.—It should be clearly understood that these lists are unofficial; but every effort is, of course, made to render them accurate and complete.]

Promotions.

LONDON.

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
S.O.	Richards, I. ...	1st Cl. Clk.	1881
"	Gates, W. G. ...	Director, C.E.B. ...	Clk., '81; Asst. Dir., '92
"	Settle, J.	Trav. Clk., 1st Cl., C.E.B.	Tel., Keighley, '71, Leeds, '76; Clk., C.E.B., '85; Trav. Clk., '86
"	Francis, S. L. ...	3rd Cl. Clk., Supply. Est.	Clk., 2nd Div., A.G.D. '98
"	Settle, H. H. ...	" "	Clk., 2nd Div., A.G.D. '98
"	O'Brien, J. M. ...	" "	Clk., 2nd Div. S.O. (Dub.), '98; S.B., '98
"	Mason, T.	Traffic Manager ...	E.T. Co., '52; G.P.O., '70; Tel. Super., S.O., '78
"	Trenam, E. ...	" "	M.T. Co., '62; G.P.O., '70; Ch. Super., M'chr., '92
"	Wilson, J. G. ...	Regy. Asst., 1st Cl.	1875; Pr. Kr., S.B., '76; Regy., S.O., '84
C.T.O.	Hanifin, M. ...	Asst. Super., Hr.Gr.	E.T. Co., '60; G.P.O., '70; Asst. Super., '91
"	Weeks, R.	Asst. Super., 2nd Cl.	1872; Sen. Tel., '93
"	Ives, W.	" "	1873; Sen. Tel., '95
"	Green, F. C. ...	" "	1874; Sen. Tel., '95
"	Eden, H.	Over. and Sen. Tel.	Stockton, '75; C.T.O. '82
"	Twyford, J. ...	" "	1875; Tel., Croydon, '80; C.T.O., '83
"	Ferneyhough, W.	" "	Stafford, '76; C.T.O., '82
"	Reed, H. G. ...	" "	1875
"	Witteridge, E. L.	" "	Reading, '78; C.T.O. '82
"	Field, J. H. ...	" "	Ramsgate, '75; C.T.O., '78
"	Benson, F. ...	" "	1881
"	Green, F. F. ...	" "	Totnes, '74; C.T.O., '81
"	Miss E. Lott ...	Super.	E.T. Co., '65; G.P.O., '70
"	" E. Carter ...	Asst. Super., Hr.Gr.	1870; Asst. Super., '88
"	" C. L. Hyde ...	" Lr. Gr.	1873
"	" E. Grainger ...	" "	1873
E. in C.O. ...	Pollard, F. ...	Submarine Super. (Dover)	1873; Insp., '85; Asst. Subn. Super., '90
"	Hardie, J.	Engr., 1st Cl. ...	Tel., Edin., '85; Junr. Clk., E. in C.O., '91; Engr., '96
"	Langdale, A. R.	" "	1870; Insp., '85
"	Roach, C. J. ...	" 2nd Cl. ...	S.C. & T., Gloucester, '86; Tel., C.T.O., '91; Sub- Eng., '97
"	King, R. T. ...	Sub.-Engr.	S.C. & T., Harwich, '94; Tel., C.T.O., '97

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
E. in C.O. ...	Horwill, G.W.F.	Sub.-Engr. ...	Tel., C.T.O., '95
" ...	Giffin, A. E. ...	" ...	S.C. & T., Glasgow, '86 ; Junr. Clk., E. in C.O., '96
" ...	Vaughan, G. H.	Junr. Clk. Provs. ...	S.C. & T., Man'r, '89
" ...	Savory, D. C. ...	" " ...	S.C. & T., B'ham, '90
" ...	Balcombe, R. C.	" " ...	S.C. & T., Cardiff, '90
" ...	Tyson, J. ...	" " ...	S.C. & T. Man'r., '91
" ...	Elston, J. S. ...	" " ...	S.C. & T. L'pool, '91
" ...	Smart, E. V. ...	" " ...	S.C. & T. Bristol, '94
" ...	Simms, J. T. ...	" " ...	S.C. & T., Belfast, '85
" ...	Morris, G. L. ...	" " ...	S.C. & T., Cardiff, '87 ; Dub., '88
" ...	Miller, W. ...	" " ...	S.C. & T., Edin., '87
" ...	Macpherson, J. J.	" " ...	S.C. & T., Inverness, '89
" ...	Kent, E. A. ...	" " ...	S.C. & T., Esher, '90 ; Norwich, '91
" ...	Bailey, G. ...	" " ...	S.C. & T., S. Shields, '90
" ...	Crawford, G.W.J.	" " ...	S.C. & T., Glasgow, '90 ; Rothesay, '92
" ...	Suttle, S. J. ...	" " ...	S.C. & T., Cork, '91
" ...	Cooke, J. ...	" " ...	S.C. & T., Reading, '92
L.P.S., C.O. ...	Batt, E. G. ...	Apparatus Exr., 2nd Cl.	1878 ; Sr., '82
" " ...	Plucknett, H. ...	Over. ...	1878 ; Sr., '81
" " ...	Downs, J. H. ...	" ...	1877
" E.C. ...	Miss E. J. Heasman	Super. ...	1881
" " ...	" C.S. Harris	" ...	1882
" Norw. ...	Woods, H. T. ...	Ch. Clk. in chge. ...	Clk., Galway, '75 ; Kings- town, '81 ; F.B., Lon., '85 ; S.E., '90 ; Asst. Super., Norw., '99
" W.C. ...	Young, W. T. B.	Ch. Clk. ...	Clk., 2nd Div. S.B., '81 ; Clk., W.D.O., '92
" W. ...	Collis, S. J. ...	Insp. ...	1874 ; Over., '79
" " ...	French, F. E. ...	Over. ...	1876 ; Sr., '80
" Padd. ...	Morley, H. ...	" ...	1879 ; Sr., '90
" " ...	Brimicombe, L. W.	" ...	1876 ; Sr., '80
" E. ...	Saggers, C. ...	Over. ...	1882 ; Hd. Pn., '87
M.O.O. ...	Miss C. Milledge	Prin. Clk. ...	Clk., C.H.B., '85 ; M.O.O., '98 ; 1st Cl., '98
" ...	" B. E. Fieldwick	Clk., 1st Cl. ...	Sr., P.O.B., '85 ; Clk., C.H.B., '88 ; M.O.O., '98
" ...	" A. Q. Hicks	" ...	Sr., P.O.B., '87 ; Clk., C.H.B., '89 ; M.O.O., '98
P.S.D. ...	Stratford, W. E.	Jr. Clk. ...	Clk., 2nd Div., A.G.D., '98
R.L.O. ...	Schofield, J. W.	Exr., 1st Cl. ...	Customs, '85 ; Excise, '86 ; Clk., 2nd Div., A.G.D., '88 ; Clk., R.L.O., '92 ; Exr., '94
" ...	Broan, W. H. ...	" 2nd Cl. ...	Clk., 2nd Div., A.G.D., '92 ; Clk., R.L.O., '93

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
R.L.O. ...	Cox, W. H. ...	Clk. ...	Boy Clk., '93; Clk., 2nd Div., A.G.D., '95
S.B.D. ...	Sutton, J. P. ...	Clk., 1st Cl. ...	Boy Clk., '72; Est., '73; Hr. Gr., '90
" ...	Miss A. M. Christmas	" ...	1890
" ...	" L. F. Worthington	" ...	1890
" ...	" M. A. Cohen	" ...	1890
Sur. Dep. ...	Webber, W. F. ...	Sur. ...	Clk., Cardiff, '74; Sur. Clk., '84; Asst. Sur., '94
" ...	Thompson, J. J. ...	Asst. Sur., 1st Cl. ...	Clk., 2nd Div., Irish Land Com., '82; Natl. Educ. Off., Dub., '84; G.P.O., S.O., Dub., '87; Sur. Clk., '90

PROVINCES—ENGLAND and WALES.

Aldershot ...	Gau, E. E. ...	Ch. Clk. ...	S.C. & T., Swindon, '81; S.C. & T., '83; Clk., Aldershot, '91
" ...	Wheeler, J. J. ...	Clk. ...	1888
Bath ...	Ketnor, J. E. ...	Ch. Clk. ...	1870; Clk., '83; Asst. Super., '91; Super., '91
" ...	Brice, T. ...	Super. ...	1870; Clk., '91; Asst. Super., '94
" ...	Tiley, J. H. ...	Asst. Super (P.) ...	1876; Clk., '94
" ...	Senior, H. ...	Clk. ...	1881
Berwick ...	Park, G. ...	" ...	1887
Birmingham ...	Burt, R. B. ...	Asst. Super., 1st Cl. (P.)	1878; Clk., '90; Asst. Super., '97
" ...	Legg, R. ...	Asst. Super., 2nd Cl. (P.)	Malvern, '78; B'ham, '83; Clk., '90
" ...	Akers, R. ...	Clk. (P.) ...	Barnet, '84; B'ham, '86
" ...	Matthews, J. H. ...	Asst. Super., 1st Cl. (T.)	1870; Clk., '89; Asst. Super., '90
" ...	Griffiths, H.F.W. ...	Asst. Super., 2nd Cl. (T.)	1874; Clk., '95
" ...	Ensell, A. ...	Clk. (T.) ...	1876
Bishop Auckland	Ashwell, A. T. W. ...	Clk. ...	S.C. & T., Malton, '86
Bolton ...	Picken, T. ...	Super (P.) ...	1878; Clk., '91
" ...	Seddon, J. ...	Clk. ...	1882
" ...	Welsby, T. ...	Asst. Super. (T.) ...	1876; Clk., '87
Burnley ...	Lawson, P. ...	Clk. ...	1888
Burton-on-Trent	Blanshard, T. ...	Super. ...	Tel., Hull, '71; Burton-on-Trent '75; Clk., '84; Asst. Super., '93
" ...	Derbyshire, F.H. ...	Clk. ...	1882
" ...	Myatt, C. J. ...	" ...	1887
" ...	Adams, W. ...	" ...	1887
" ...	Ferneyhough, F. ...	" ...	C.T.O., '86; Burton, '99

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
Cambridge ...	Robinson, F. W.	Super (T.) ...	M.T. Co., '68; G.P.O., '70; Clk., '87; Asst. Super., '96
Durham ...	Harwood, D. ...	Ch. Clk....	S.C. & T., '85; Clk., Doncaster, '93
Falmouth ...	Vinson, R. T. H.	Clk. ...	1881
Guernsey ...	LeMessurier, E. L.	" ...	1882
Hitchin ...	Tully, J. E. ...	" ...	1888
Hull... ..	Thelwall, A. W.	Asst. Super. (P.) ...	1876; Clk., '91
"	Staves, J. E. ...	Clk. (P.) ...	1882
"	Craven, J. H. ...	" ...	1892
Jersey ...	Gallichan, J. F. ...	Clk. ...	1873
Kingston-on-Thames	Cole, H. W. ...	Asst. Super. ...	1874; Clk., '94
" "	Mahoney, E. ...	Clk. ...	1890
Lancaster ...	Ormandy, J. F. ...	" ...	1885
Leeds ...	Holmes, T. H. ...	Asst. Super., 2nd Cl. (T.)	E.T. Co., '65; G.P.O., '70; Clk., '90
" ...	Buckley, A. ...	Clk. (T.) ...	M.T. Co., '62; G.P.O., '70
" ...	Butler, G. C. ...	" ...	1871
Lewes ...	Pelling, T. H. ...	Clk. ...	1879
Loughboro' ...	Chester, W. H. ...	" ...	1888
Louth ...	Wilson, J. ...	" ...	1882
Maidstone ...	Phipps, E. ...	Asst. Super. ...	1886; Clk., '98
Manchester ...	Woolley, W. ...	" 1st Cl. (T.)	U.K.T. Co., '64; G.P.O., '70; Clk., '90; Asst. Super., '96
" ...	Falconer, J. F. ...	" 2nd "	1872; Clk., '97
" ...	Campbell, J. ...	Clk. (T.) ...	1871
" ...	Stableford, R. ...	" ...	1881
Newmarket ...	Bond, C. ...	Ch. Clk. ...	E.T. Co., '69; G.P.O., '70; Clk., Gt. Yarmouth, '91
North Shields...	Clark, W. B. ...	" ...	1881; Clk., '97
" ...	Moat, R. ...	Clk. ...	1882
Nottingham ...	Bateman, C. ...	Asst. Super. (T.) ...	E.T. Co., '67; G.P.O., '70; Clk., '94
" ...	Swift, T. ...	Clk. (T.) ...	S.C. & T., Derby, '75
St Albans ...	Reeves, H. J. ...	Clk. ...	1891
Southampton ...	Bell, J. ...	Super. (T.) ...	1871; Clk., '90; Asst. Super., Dundee, '98
" ...	Perry, F. W. ...	Asst. Super. (P.) ...	1881; Stg. Clk., '84; Clk., '97
Stoke-on-Trent.	Hatcher, E. ...	Super. ...	1879; Ch. Clk., Luton
" ...	Clean, F. J. ...	" ...	1882; Clk., Shrewsbury, '93; Asst. Super., Coventry, '80
" ...	Treglown, G. J. ...	Asst. Super. ...	1878; Clk., '84
" ...	Shufflebotham, W. R.	" " ...	1871; Clk., '87
" ...	Jenkins, H. J. ...	" " ...	1878; Clk., '87
" ...	Barnes, J. ...	" " ...	S.C. & T., Birkenhead, '79; Chester, '88; Sur. Sta. Clk., '93
Sunderland ...	Snowball, T. T. ...	Clk. (P.) ...	1879

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
Sunderland ...	Collinson, J. T...	Clk., (P.) ...	1881
Sutton, Surrey..	Dunne, E. L. ...	" ...	S.C. & T., Canterbury, '82; Clk., Margate, '92
Torquay ...	Cove, F. G. ...	" ...	1881
" ...	Lias, E. J. ...	" ...	1882
Worcester ...	Knight, R. C. ...	Asst. Super. (P.) ...	S.C. & T., Wantage, '86; Oxford, '88; Clk., Worcester, '99
" ...	Bartlett, F. C. ...	Clk. (T.) ...	S.C. & T., Aylesbury, '88
Yeovil ...	Atkins, T. H. ...	Clk. ...	1882
York ...	Miss E. G. Woodall	Asst. Super. ...	1885
" ...	Miss A. M. J. Plackett	" " ...	1890

IRELAND.

Dublin ...	Dunn, G. ...	Asst. Super. (T.) ...	Charleville, '70; Dub., '77; Clk., '95
" ...	Clarke, J. H. ...	Clk. (T.) ...	1885
Limerick ...	Morgan, F. C. ...	Asst. Super. (P.) ...	S.C. & T., Cork, '85

SCOTLAND.

Edinburgh, S.O.	Redford, E. P. W.	Secy. ...	S.B., '68; A.G.D., '72; Sur. Clk., '74; Sur., '83
" A.O.	Smith, L. ...	2nd Div. Clk., Hr. Gr.	M.T. Co., '62; G.P.O., '70; A.O., '83
" "	Watson, J. ...	" "	U.K.T. Co., '66; G.P.O., '70; A.O., '84
" "	Gibson, P. ...	" "	E.T. Co., '65; G.P.O., '70; A.O., '84
" "	Miss C. H. Croal	Super. ...	1872; Asst. Super., '99
" "	" J. W. F. Drummond	Asst. Super. ...	Tel., '76; Clk., A.O., '78; 1st Cl., '94
" "	" E. J. McGregor	Clk., 1st Cl. ...	S.B., '82; A.O., Edin. 83
" Stg. Off.	White, G. ...	Clk. (P.) ...	1885
Glasgow ...	Campbell, W. ...	Asst. Super., 2nd Cl. (P.)	1879; Clk., '94
" ...	Ferguson, J. ...	Clk. (P.) ...	1881
" ...	Silver, R. ...	" ...	1884
" ...	Mercer, A. ...	" ...	1885
" ...	Gibson, J. ...	" ...	1885
" ...	Bell, J. ...	" ...	1884
" ...	McLeod, L. ...	" (T.) ...	1876
" ...	McGregor, J. ...	Insp. in Charge	Sr., '59; Asst. Insp., '77; Insp., '91
Greenock ...	Angus, J. ...	Asst. Super. ...	1874; Clk., '91

Retirements.

LONDON.

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
A.G.D.	*Fells, J. R. ...	Sr.-Tr.	1896
" C.H.B.	*Miss J. M. Richards	Clk., 2nd Cl....	1893
" "	" M. D. Grayson	" "	1891
" P.O.B.	" E. Davies...	" "	S.B., '75; P.O.B., '81
" "	* J. A. C. Hutchieson	" "	1895
C.T.O.	Hobday, J. ...	Over. & Senr. Tel.	1873; O. & S.T., '95
"	Betteridge, G. S.	Tel.	1883
"	Fielden, J. J. ...	"	1871
"	Scudamore, S. F.	"	1889
"	*Jones, C.	"	1893
"	*Dempster, E. M. B.	"	1894
"	Miss E. R. Cobb	Asst. Super. ...	1871; Asst. Super., '97
"	" E. F. Greer	Tel.	E.T. Co., '63; G.P.O., '70
"	" J. A. Westmarland	"	1870
"	Miss J. K. Evans	"	1872
"	" A. S. L. Pearce	"	1888
E. in C.O. ...	Shepherd, F. ...	Engr., 1st Cl. ...	E.T. Co., '64; G.P.O., '70; Engr., '91
"	Markin, H. A....	" "	E.T. Co., '62; G.P.O., '70; Engr., '91
L.P.S., C.O. ...	Caiger, R. T. ...	Super.	1860; Sr., '64; Over., '78; Insp., '85; Super., '91
" "	Blumsum, H. L.	"	1870; Sr., '74; Insp., '92; Super., '93
" "	Thompson, J. ...	Insp.	1860; Sr., '63; Over., '76; Insp., '90
" "	Hollingsworth, T. W.	Over.	1866; Sr., '72; Over., '81
" "	Seymour, F. ...	Sr.	1866; Sr., '72
" "	Wilson, W. ...	"	1860; Sr., '73
" "	Maynard, H. T.	"	1872; Sr., '81
" "	Bown, B. H. ...	"	1886; Sr., '90
" "	Owens, B. J. W.	"	1890
" "	*Fitzpatrick, J. ...	"	1894
" "	*McHattie, A. ...	"	1896
" "	*Sim, W.	"	1898
" E.C.	Pearman, H. E.	Over. and Sen. Tel.	1872; Sen. Tel., '92
" "	Bolton, B. T. ...	C.C. & T.	E.T. Co., '61; G.P.O. '70
" "	Miss S. M. Christian	Super.	1873; Super., '88

• Awarded a Gratuity.

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
L.P.S., E.C. ...	Miss A. A. Ulyatt	Super.	1875; Super., '94
" W.C. ...	Morris, M. ...	Over.	1860; Sr., '62; Over., '92
" S.E. ...	Foyle, R. ...	Asst. Super. ...	1860; Sr., '63; Over., '70;
" " ...	"	"	Insp., '85; Asst. Super., '99
" " ...	Hartley, R. ...	Insp.	1861; Sr., '69; Over., '81;
" " ...	"	"	Insp., '91
" " ...	Skues, J. ...	"	1865; Sr., '69; Over., '77;
" " ...	"	"	Insp., '94
" S.W. ...	Welfare, W. ...	Over.	1859; Sr., '62; Over., '82
" " ...	*Miss F. A. Dawe	C.C. & T. ...	1898
" W. ...	Morley, G. ...	Insp.	1858; Over., '82; Insp., '97
" N.W. ...	Jordan, W. ...	Sr.	1886
M.O.O. ...	Stevenson, A. H.	Clk., 2nd Div. ...	Boy Clk., '82; Clk., 2nd Div., '84
" " ...	"	"	1878
R.L.O. ...	Strong, J. H. ...	Sr.-Pr.-Kr. ...	Clk., C.D., '62; R.L.O., '67; Exr., '76; 1st Cl., '88
" " ...	Purves, T. ...	Exr., 1st Cl. ...	"
" " ...	"	"	S.B., '82; R.L.O., '88
" " ...	Bailey, J. P. ...	Asst.	A.G.D., '85; R.L.O., '96
" " ...	Brown, W. H. ...	"	1874
" " ...	Miss S. H. C. Saxton	Returner ...	"
" " ...	" C. Adams	"	S.C. & T., '88; E.C., '92; R.L.O., '99
" " ...	"	"	1869; Hr. Gr., '90; 1st Cl., '95
S.B.D. ...	Hawkins, E. P.	Clk., 1st Cl. ...	"
" " ...	"	"	1883
" " ...	Miss A. E. Russen	Clk., 2nd Cl. ...	1801
" " ...	* " R. Muirhead	Sr. "	1883
" " ...	" I. West	"	"

PROVINCES—ENGLAND and WALES.

Birmingham ...	Brown, F. T. ...	Asst. Super., 1st Cl. (T.)	1870; Clk., '83; Asst. Super., '87; 1st Cl., '90
" ...	Bodey, A. T. ...	Clk. (P.)	1862; Clk., '90
" ...	Bryan, J. T. ...	S.C. & T.	1872
" ...	*Gilks, W. E. ...	"	1891
" ...	Miss M. L. Richmond	"	1890
Bishop Auckland	Heron, J. J. ...	"	1874
Bournemouth ...	*Miss E. M. Stacey	"	1897
Chelmsford ...	Phillips, G. ...	Pmr.	S.C. & T., Winchester, '63; Pmr., Petersfield, '78; Stourbridge, '90; Chelmsford, '98
" " ...	"	"	1880
Chester ...	Walley, W. V. J.	S.C. & T.	Clk., '73; Pms., '77
Dorking ...	Miss M. E. Lanham	Pms.	"
" " ...	"	"	1860; S.C. & T., '68
Gloucester ...	Smart, F. ...	S.C. & T.	1896
Grimsby ...	*Watmough, H. ...	"	1890
Hoddesden ...	Horsnell, W. H. ...	"	1876
Holyhead ...	Hughes, W. ...	"	1880
Holywell ...	Miss M. E. Jones	Pms.	1871
Hull ...	Heath, G. O. ...	S.C. & T.	1867
Kidwelly ...	Mrs. E. Thomas	Pms.	"

* Awarded a Gratuity.

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
Leeds	Farrar, W.	Asst. Super. (T.)	U.K.T. Co., '63; G.P.O., '70; Clk., '87; Asst. Super., '97
Liverpool	*Greenwood, R.	S.C. & T.	1896
"	Miss E.F. Holbert	Pmr.	1890
Llanelly	Scaife, J.	Pmr.	U.K.T. Co., '63; Relay Clk., G.P.O., '70; Pmr., Llanelly, '94
Maidstone	Bates, G.	Asst. Super.	1866; Clk., '67; Asst. Super., '91
Malvern	*Death, W. J.	S.C. & T.	Edinburgh, '98; Malvern, '00
Manchester	Wigglesworth, T.	"	1870
"	Travers, F. J.	"	1871
"	Miss A. Gaythorpe	"	1887
Moreton-in-Marsh	Randall, H. C.	Pmr.	1861; Pmr., '69
Nottingham	Cocks, B. M.	S.C. & T.	1885
Petersfield	Cottrall, W.	Pmr.	Met. Dists., '63; Sr., '68; Sub-Pmr., Wimbledon, '81; Pmr., Petersfield, '97
Portsmouth	Morley, A. C.	Clk.	1872; Clk., '73
Pwllheli	Mrs. L.E. Robyns-Owen	Pms.	1877
Sheffield	Ardron, F. E.	Clk. (T.)	1874; Clk., '98
Sherborne	Stabler, G.	Pmr.	E.T. Co., '56; G.P.O., '70; Clk., Lincoln, '71; Pmr., Sherborne, '80
Sidmouth	Mrs. L.H. Rainger	Pms.	1879
Tenby	Baker, W. A.	Pmr.	S.C. & T., '60; Clk., Hereford, '65; Pmr., Ledbury, '77; Tenby, '92
Walsall	Small, T.	"	Gosport, '57; Pr.-Kr., S.O., '68; Pmr., Gosport, '74; Walsall, '87
West Hartlepool	*Linley, A. G.	S.C. & T.	1895
Woolwich	Pierce, E. A.	Clk.	1882; Clk., '88

IRELAND.

Cork	Coleman, M.	S.C. & T.	1876; S.C. & T., '91
Dublin	Moloney, T.	"	1885

SCOTLAND.

Dalbeattie	Miss E. Gillespie	Pms.	1873
Dundee	Bryson, W. K.	Pmr.	Clk., Kirkcaldy, '56; Inverness, '59; Pmr., Kilmarnock, '79; Perth, '86; Greenock, '89; Dundee, '97

* Awarded a Gratuity.

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
Edinburgh, S.O.	Creswell, H. L.	Secy.	Clk., S.O., London, '60; Insp. of Mails, '69; 1st Cl. Clk., '71; Prin. Clk., '73; Sur., '77; Secy., Dub., '85; Edin., '97
„ A.O	Meek, J.	Ctrman.	1865; Sr., '73; Ctrman., '78
„ ...	Ross, W.	Asst. Super. (P.) ...	1866; Sr., '69; Over., '88; Asst. Super., '91
„ ...	Tait, A.	Clk.	1865; Clk., '91
„ ...	Duncan, A.	S.C. & T.	1865; S.C. & T., '68
„ ...	Cairns, T.	„	1887
Fort William ...	Miss E. Cameron	„	1888
Glasgow	Millar, P.	Insp. in Chge. ...	1865; Stg. Clk., '72; Asst. Insp., '77; Insp., '90
„	Miss M. McFarlane	S.C. & T.	1888
Melrose	Miss S. Elliot ...	Pms.	1885

Postmasters Appointed.

OFFICE.	NAME.	PREVIOUS APPOINTMENTS.
London, W.	Pitt, B.	Clk., S.B.; L.P.S.; Ch. Clk., Pmr., Norwood
Alford	Bleasby, E. A.	S.C. & T., Plymouth
Alresford	Curtis, G.	S.C. & T., Newcastle-on-Tyne; Sunderland; Pmr., Fence Houses
Beverley	Hunter, G. M.	E.T. Co.; S.C. & T., Clk., Hull
Blandford	Tonkin, J.	Clk., Ch. Clk., Truro
Cambridge	Woodward, F. W.	Boy Clk., War Office; 2nd Div. Clk., S.B.; Clk., Travg. Clk., 2nd Cl., 1st Cl., C.E.B.
Fence Houses	Sanderson, B.	S.C. & T., Clk., Beverley
Flint	Jones, H. W.	S.C. & T., Holywell
Ilminster	Barnes, A. F.	S.C. & T., Peterboro', Grimsby; Sub-Pmr., Mirfield
Manchester... ..	Philips, J.	Sur. Sta. Clk.; Clk., Met. Sur. Off., M.L.B.; Asst. Dir.; Dir. C.E.B.
Moreton-in-Marsh	Randall, C.	S.C. & T., Coventry
Oundle	Warren, W. C.	S.C. & T., Clk., Falmouth
Pontefract	Orrell, W. K.	Tel., M'chr., E.C.; Pmr., Runcorn
Pontypriid	Flacke, J. W.	Tel., Senr. Tel., Met. Dist.; Pmr., Blandford
Poole	Rennie, J.	Pn. Sr., Ctrman, Lon.; Pmr., Letterkenny, Leek
Richmond, Yorks	Morton, A.	Pmr., Bawtry
Ripon	Watts, W.	Tel., Cardiff; Clk., Asst. Super., Hereford
Rochester	Harrison, F. C.	Tel., Clk., Asst. Super., York; Pmr., Gainsborough
Ruthin	Edwards, T.	S.C. & T., Rhyl, L'pool, and Bangor
St. Austell	Cocks, A.	E.T. Co., S.C. & T., Ipswich; Pmr., Monmouth, Braintree
Soham... ..	Gadd, J. B.	S.C. & T., Clk., Weymouth
Spennymoor	Keate, J. R.	S.C. & T., Taunton
Stratford-on-Avon	Doonan, W. H.	S.C. & T., Clk.,
Sudbury	Evans, T. M.	S.C. & T., Shrewsbury; Pmr., Newport, Salop
Taunton	Thrall, B.	Clk., Lincoln, Hull; Pmr., Torquay
Truro	Covington, C. S.	E.T. Co.; Tel., Sen. Tel.; Asst. Super., C.T.O.
Walton-on-Thames	McDonald, G.	Tel., News Distributor, C.T.O.
York	James, D. T.	Clk., Plymouth; Ch. Clk., Devonport; Pmr., Newton Abot, Scarboro', Taunton
Enfield, Ireland	Cleggett, P.	S.C. & T., Portarlinton, Kingstown
Killucan	Wilson, W.	S.C. & T., Middleton, Bandon
Kilmallock	Senior, E. M.	S.C. & T., Huddersfield; S.C. & T., Clk., Lancaster
Limavady	Bradley, R.	S.C. & T., Portrush
Buckie... ..	Dougall, R.	Tel., Clk., Glasgow
Lanark	Fleming, A.	Tel., Kirkcaldy; Tel., Clk., Glasgow
Port Ellen	McTaggart, A.	Sub-Pmr., Kinn.

Deaths.

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	SERVICE.
S.O.	Higgins, C. ...	Regy. Asst. 1st Cl.	1879; 1st Cl., '97
A.G.D.	Bush, W.	Tr.	1880
"	Coales, W.	Sr. Tr.	1898
"	Calverley, G. H. ...	"	1900
C.T.O.	Appleby, G. ...	Asst. Super. Hr. Gr.	E.T. Co., '56; G.P.O., '70; Asst. Super., '85
"	Rollo, C. R. ...	Over. & Sen. Tel...	1870; Sen. Tel., '86
"	*Hyett, W. O. ...	Tel.	1898
E. in C.O. ...	Power, W. J. ...	Engr., 2nd Cl. ...	E.T. Co., '65; G.P.O., '70
"	Webster, J. ...	"	S.C. & T., Leeds, '85; Jr. Clk., E. in C.O., '85; Engr., '94
"	Halliwell, H. ...	Sub. Engr.	Lineman, '94; Sub. Engr., '00
L.P.S., Cir. Off.	Stolworthy, E. S.	Over.	1876; Sr., '78; Over., '96
"	Chase, G.	Sr.	1876; Sr., '79
"	Alger, A. J. C.	"	1881; Sr., '83
"	*Sanders, H. G. ...	"	1893
"	*Gobel, J.	"	1893
"	Coolbeer, H. ...	"	1894; Sr., '96
"	Tuffen, A.	"	1896
"	Connor, J. McC. ...	"	1899
"	S.E. Smith, R. ...	"	1873; Sr., '77
"	S.W. Lynch, T. P. ...	"	1899
"	W. Dowsett, E. G.	"	1889
"	*Blackford, H. H. ...	"	1899
"	Padd. Shoulder, H. C.	Over.	1872; Sr., '74; Over., '89
R.L.O.	Palmer, S. R. ...	Asst.	1870; Messr., '73; Pr.-Kr., M.O.O., '78; Asst. R.L.O., '99
S.B.D.	Kelson, E. J. ...	Clk., 3rd Cl.	1868
"	Cosway, M.W.G.	" 2nd Div. ...	War Office, '93; S B., '96
Birmingham ...	Franklin, C. F. ...	Asst. Super., 1st Cl.	1875; Clk., '85; Asst. Super., '92; 1st Cl., '94
Burnley	Gilmartin, J. M.	Clk.	1883; Clk., '92
Manchester ...	Harley, H. O.	Pmr. & Sur. ...	Clk., A.O., '67; Sur. Clk., '77; Sur., Ire., '84; Ch. Clk., S.O., Dublin, '86; Pmr., M'chr, '92
Newport, Mon.	Davies, R. J. ...	S.C. & T.	1885
Preston	Close, H. C. ...	"	1886
Tavistock ...	*Middleton, T. ...	"	1895
Tonbridge ...	Clark, E. J. ...	"	Eltham, '97; Tonbridge, '00
Belfast	Dempsey, C. ...	"	1891
Dublin	Smullen, D. ...	"	1893
"	Warnock, W. J. ...	"	1897
Mullingar ...	Miss M. Brady ...	"	1898
Newtown Stewart	McIvor, H. ...	Pmr.	1884

* Died while serving with the colours in South Africa.

OFFICE	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	SERVICE.
Youghal	Mahony, M. ...	Pmr.	S.C. & T., Queenstown, '74; Pmr., Youghal, '95
Ayr	Johnston, G. ...	Clk.	M. T. Co., '55; G.P.O., '70; Clk., '84
Edinburgh ...	Laidlow, L. ...	S.C. & T. ...	1900
„ ...	Miss C. A. Livingstone	„ ...	1897
Glasgow	*Hamilton, T. ...	„ ...	1896

* Died while serving with the colours in South Africa.

ABBREVIATIONS.

Acct., Accountant; Asst., Assistant; C.C. & T., Counter Clerk and Telegraphist; Ch., Chief; Cl., Class; Clk., Clerk; Cont., Controller; Div., Division; Engr., Engineer; Exr., Examiner; Gr., Grade; Hd., Head; Hr., Higher; Insp., Inspector; Jr., Junior; Lr., Lower; Offr., Officer; Over., Overseer; P., Postal; Pn., Postman; Pmr., Postmaster; Pms., Postmistress; Pr.-Kr., Paper-Keeper; Prin., Principal; Prob., Probationary; Prov., Provinces; Retr., Returner; Sec., Secretary; Sen., Senior; S.C. & T., Sorting Clerk and Telegraphist; Sr., Sorter; Stg., Sorting; Sta., Stationary; Supply., Supplementary; Sur., Surveyor; Super., Superintendent or Supervisor; Tech., Technical; Tel., Telegraphist; Temp., Temporary; Tr., Tracer; Wtg., Writing.

Extraots from Testimonials.

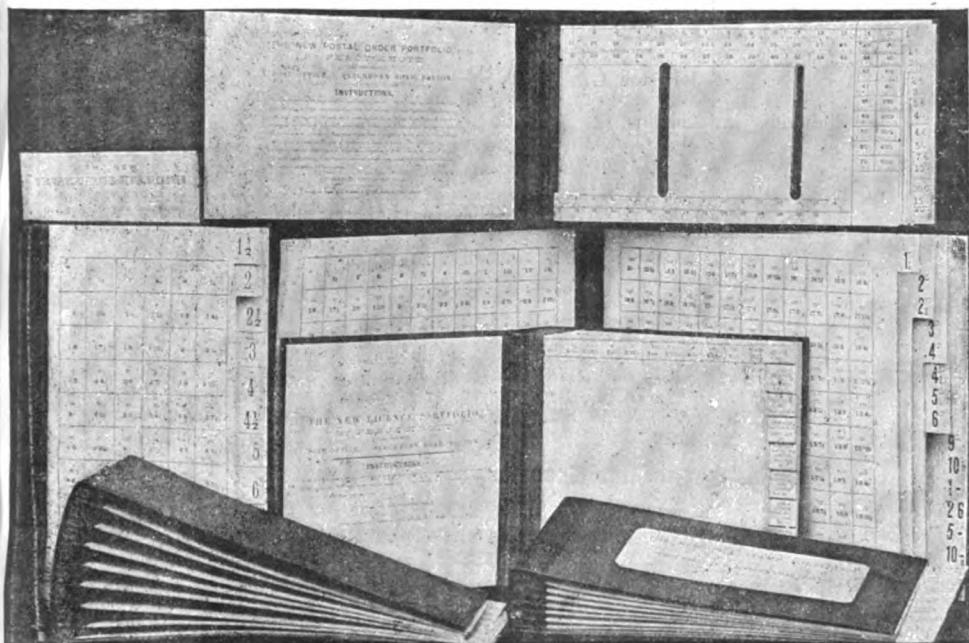
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KNOTT BROS., Chemists, 1, Blackburn Road, BOLTON.

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Registered under the Companies' Acts, 1862, 1867.

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1. Send to the Secretary, CIVIL SERVICE MUTUAL FURNISHING ASSOCIATION, LIMITED, 15, Charterhouse Street, Holborn Circus, E.C., for Form of Application.

2. Return the Form filled in as fully as circumstances permit, the object being simply to save correspondence. The information given is regarded as that of a private letter to the Board.

3. The Board meets every Thursday for the consideration of tenders, and applicants are informed as soon as possible whether their applications have been accepted or whether any modification is necessary.

4. With the intimation that a tender has been accepted the applicant receives a list of the firms in connection with the Association at which he will probably be best suited with the description of the articles he requires. He selects the firm or firms which he considers best and receives an order thereon for the value required. The order must be presented before leaving the Establishment, but need not be shown before the goods have been selected and the prices ascertained.

5. The selected goods are sold to the Association by the firms, and despatched to the applicant's residence immediately after he has signed a formal agreement under which he takes the furniture on hire. This agreement is not registered.

6. The stipulated instalments having been paid, the furniture becomes, by the terms of the said agreement, the absolute property of the hirer; but should the goods be returned, from any cause whatsoever, they will be sold by auction or private treaty, and the money arising therefrom handed to the hirer, after deducting the balance and expenses, if any, due to the Association.

7. Since there are no articles of domestic or general utility that the Association cannot supply through appropriate firms—wearing apparel excepted—applicants need not hesitate therefore to tender for whatever they may require. The Association endeavours to have at least one firm of each description on its list who mark their goods in plain figures.

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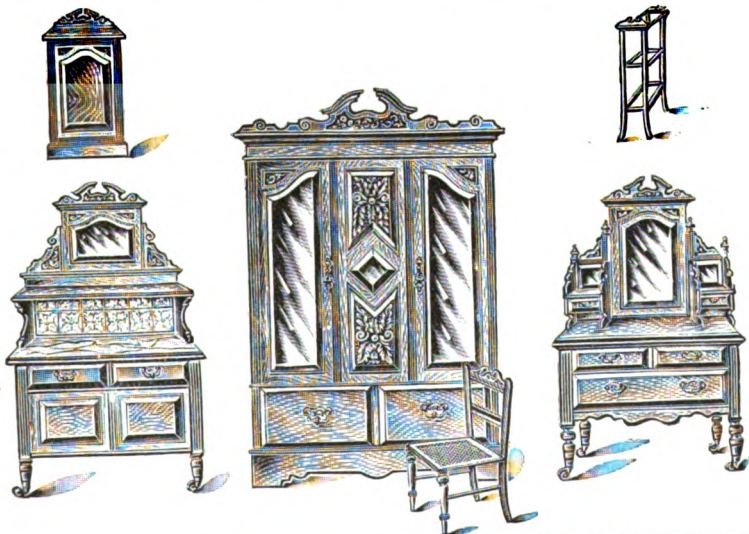
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Our readers at home and abroad are reminded that this is an amateur Magazine, and that if it is to fulfil its purpose and maintain its interest, they must help us by sending articles for publication, newspaper cuttings, drawings, photographs, notices of events, &c., either to the Hon. Editor.

EDWARD BENNETT, } c/o MESSRS. GRIFFITH & SONS LD.,
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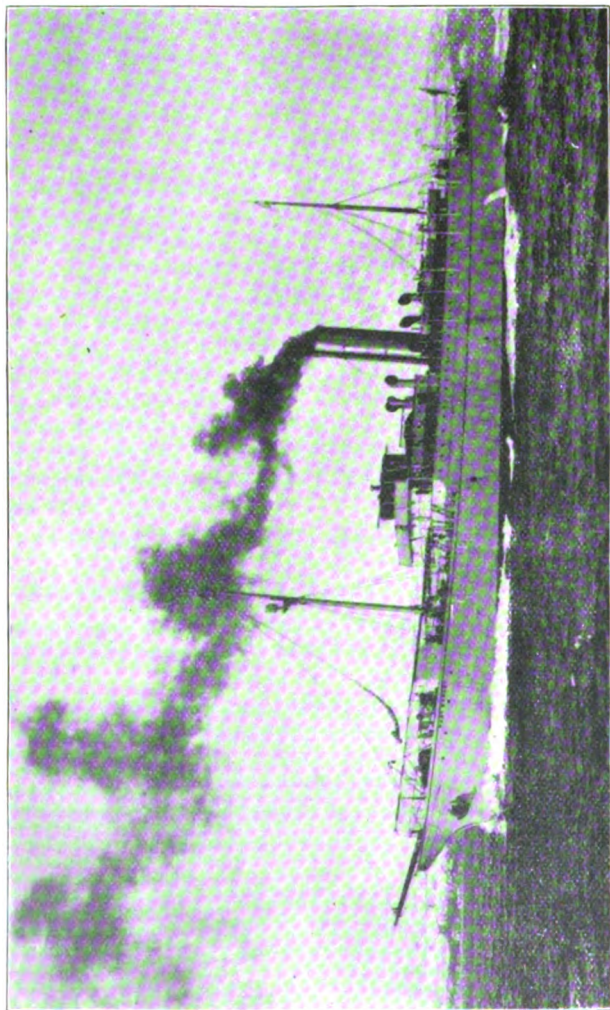
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STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT of the "St. Martin's-le-Grand Magazine" for the year 1900.

Receipts.				Payments.				
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	
Balance from 1899 ...		9	3	3	Printing, &c. ...	28	19	7
Subscriptions, &c. ...	416	10	11		Engraver ...	52	6	11
Advertisements ...	34	5	6		Artist ...	11	8	6
					Assistance ...	56	6	6
					Postage and Packing ...	54	3	9
					Sundries ...	0	8	9
					Balance in hand ...	3	5	8
	£459	19	8			£459	19	8

A. F. KING, *Hon. Treasurer.*
EDWARD BENNETT, *Hon. Editor.*

27th December, 1900.



From a block kindly lent by Mr. R. C. Tombs.

THE NEW MAIL PACKET, "PORT MORANT," ON HER MAIDEN VOYAGE FROM AVONMOUTH TO JAMAICA.

(See Aug. 207.)

[Frontispiece.]

ST. MARTIN'S-LE-GRAND

APRIL, 1901.

A Breach of Post Office Discipline.

“**H**OW is Grannie?”

“No worse—no better—just the same.”

The speakers were two plain, tired-looking women, who stood at their cottage doors, looking down the lane, and waiting for the postman.

“Ah! she believes God will be good to her. I don’t! She’s too good herself. It’s always the way. When a person is good the Lord takes a pleasure in trying them, to see how their goodness wears. When they’re born bad He just leaves them to the devil.”

“And the devil gives them all the good things in this world and keeps their bad times for the next, eh?” said the first speaker with a weary smile—“Well, there’s a-many would be glad enough to get some luck in the world at the price!”

“But Grannie wouldn’t.”

“No. Grannie wouldn’t.”

Grannie herself, meanwhile, the unconscious subject of these remarks, was sitting within one of the cottages in her old arm-chair near the fire. She was a very aged woman, brown and wrinkled, and quite blind. Her grandson, the last remaining member of her family, had been called out as a reservist to South Africa, and since his departure she had been very dependent on her neighbours, not for money or food, oh no!—Grannie had both,—but just for help to move about and get her little bit of cooking done. But her neighbours loved her so much, and respected her so highly, that they found it a pleasure more than a trouble to take turns in looking after her. Her Jack, the grandson whom the country had claimed, had commended her to the care of the entire village, and the village was not unworthy of its trust. Grannie was really no burden to it. The only difficulty just now was that she was ailing, and that there had been no news for some weeks from Jack at the front. Grannie had developed two serious forms of obstinacy; one was a loss of appetite, the other a feverish anxiety for visits from the

postman. The postman himself was like a son to Grannie; he was very fond of her, and in his boyhood's days had been Jack's school-fellow. On this particular cold winter's morning, Grannie was unusually restless. She had passed a bad night, and woke up asking querulously if there were no letters. On being told no, that it was not time yet for the postman's arrival, she shed a few slow tears, and begged that someone would read her a few words of comfort from her Bible. This was done; and then she said she would get on her clothes, and sit by the fire and wait for that tardy postman. Her two nearest neighbours, being a little anxious at the extreme pallor of her kind old face, helped her to dress, and made her some hot tea, and then went themselves to watch for that lingering messenger from the wonderful office that deals out joy, sorrow, life and death in stamped parcels with such unsentimental, yet valuable regularity. And Grannie, sitting by the fire, talked to herself, folding her withered hands one over the other nervously.

"Of course they wanted Jack," she said, "such a fine, broad-shouldered fellow and strong as an oak!—of course they were obliged to have my Jack! Ah! and he'll fight for the country—that he will! and they'll give him a lot of medals, and make him an officer—oh, it is a fine chance for him! And it's proud I shall be of him when he comes back." Her voice broke and she gave a little cry—"What's that? Who's that?"

One of the women hurried to her. "Anything wrong, Grannie?"

Grannie turned her sightless eyes around.

"No, my dear, no! I—I can't see—but I thought God Almighty had given me back my eyes again and that I saw Jack coming in at the doorway!" She paused. "Is the postman come?"

"Not yet!"

Grannie sighed and lay back in her chair with a wearied air of patience. Her neighbour stole out to join the other woman at the threshold.

"Grannie's not herself to-day," she said softly. "Mebbe we'd better send for the doctor?"

"Mebbe," returned the other in the same low tone.

Meantime, the postman, familiarly known in the village as Harry, was just turning into the lane where he was so eagerly expected, with a heavy heart.

In his bag lay a letter for Grannie from the War Office. Its colour was ominous; instinctively he guessed its news. By all the rules of his service he was bound to deliver that letter to the person for whom

it was intended. His honest soul sickened ; he thought of the lonely blind old woman sitting by her cottage fire,—of her tears and prayers,—of her longing for news of Jack,—of her trust in God,—of her simple ignorance of all the horrors of war.

Heavily and wearily his feet dragged along ; and the thought came to him—" If I kept back the letter just a day or two?"

The shrill voices of the watching women reached him from the frosty air as he came along.

" Hi ! Harry ! make haste ! Grannie's wearying for you !"

He quickened his pace,—it would depend, he thought—it would depend on how he found her.

" Grannie's wearying?" he said as he approached. " What ! Isn't she so well?"

" Scarcely—she's just sickening for news. Have ye any letter from the front?"

" No !" he answered, and answered truthfully.

Then he stepped into the little cottage where Grannie sat, and looked at her. She heard him, and half rose from her chair.

" Is that you, Harry?" she murmured feebly, " I am sorely worried in my head—I can't make out voices or footsteps as I used to do, but if it's you, say so !"

" It's me !" said Harry, slowly, his blue eyes fixed compassionately on the old woman's drawn and ashen features. " *You* don't make mistakes, Grannie ! don't you think it ! It's me all right."

" Have ye a letter?"

" No !"

The lie was spoken, and postman Harry shook under it as though some invisible devil had given him a blow.

Grannie tottered back into her chair.

" It's weary work waiting !" she muttered, " weary, weary work !"

Harry glanced enquiringly at the two women who had entered the house with him, and, answering their anxious looks, said in an undertone, " I'll ask the doctor to come as I pass by his house." Aloud he spoke—" Cheer up, Grannie ! It is not the day for the South African mail."

" Isn't it?" and Grannie's tired voice had a ring of hope in it.

" No ! To-morrow or next day it comes in. You'll hear from Jack for sure then !"

" You think so ? Really ? Truly ?"

" Of course. He's all right !"

" Yes—yes !" said Grannie, with sudden vivacity, " He's all right."

God bless you, Harry! You're a good lad—you wouldn't lie to me! God bless you! He's all right!"

Harry bent over the chair and kissed Grannie's wrinkled brow, then resolutely turned away and went on his beat with the War Office letter still in his pocket.

The next morning, lo, and behold, a very different kind of letter addressed to Grannie!—one from Jack himself! Harry could hardly believe his eyes, though he knew his old schoolfellow's writing well enough. It took him some time to realise the truth that poor Jack had been killed since that letter started on its way, and that the announcement from the War Office which had been held back was indeed the very latest news of him. But having supported Grannie's hopes so far he was not going to dash them now. He hurried down the lane to her little cottage and almost tumbled over the threshold in his excitement.

"Grannie!" he called.

Grannie was in bed, but she heard him and called him to her side. She looked very weak and wan, but there was a feverish brightness in her sightless eyes as she felt him coming near to her.

"I am a bit ailing this morning, my dearie," she said, "but never mind me!—you've got a letter?"

"Yes," said Harry, and he gave her the long-awaited-for and precious epistle.

"Thank God!" sighed the old woman, as she felt it all over with her trembling fingers, and then handed it to Harry to open and to read.

And what a cheery, bright letter it was, to be sure! Full of hope and courage—teeming with expressions of love and remembrance to all at home—expecting to see everybody as well when he returned as when he left them, and concluding with a "Cheer up, Grannie, I'll soon be home again. Your Jack," over which phrase poor postman Harry nearly choked and broke down.

But Grannie was content. She lay back upon her pillows with a peaceful smile and clasped hands.

"God is very good!" said she, "He will not suffer us to be afflicted beyond our strength to bear. Sorrow may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning!"

She closed her blind eyes—and so Harry left her, with her Jack's letter within reach on the counterpane beside her, and her soul full of gratitude and prayer.

That night she died in her sleep; and postman Harry, devoured

by the gnawings of conscience, as soon as he had delivered all his letters the next morning, went off to see the vicar, a kindly, broad-minded old man, with a tender heart, always ready to sympathise with the griefs of others. To him Harry solemnly delivered the unopened War Office announcement, and made full and frank confession of its detention with a husky, tremulous voice and downcast eyes.

"If she had known he was killed," he said, "it would ha' made her last hours bitter. She thought he was all right and well to the last; and she went to God happy! But I know I oughtn't to ha' kept it back—mebbe I'll lose my place now!"

The vicar heard him in silence, and himself opened the War Office envelope. It contained the fatal news they had expected—that Jack had been killed in action, and the good clergyman sighed as he laid it among his parish papers; then he turned to Harry.

"It was a breach of office discipline," he said, trying to look stern, "but I will not report you! Don't do it again!"

"No, sir," said Harry, meekly, then after a long pause, during which he twirled his cap and looked foolish—"Thank you, sir!"

The vicar looked at him. There was a suspicious moisture in his eyes.

"Shake hands, Harry!" he said kindly.

Reddening with confusion Harry obeyed, taking the condescension as a sign of forgiveness, and then without daring to look round again, hurried off.

The following Sunday the vicar announced Jack's death from the pulpit with a few paternal words of tribute to the simple and manly life the young soldier had led among them before he was called to the front.

Many of the congregation wept for the loss of the bright, gallant fellow who had grown up from childhood in their village, others spoke of "Grannie," just laid to rest under the green grass and silvery daisies.

"A mercy she died afore she knowed!" they all said.

And postman Harry, in his first and last "breach of office discipline," thought so too.

MARIE CORELLI.

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The Post Office London Telephone System.

THE telephone, the dream of electricians in the middle of the past century, its problem almost solved in the sixties, an actual marvel in the late seventies, and now the indispensable and much abused handmaid of man both in his business and his social life. And yet, little as is now thought of its marvels, to those who can fully appreciate the various transformations of energy necessary for, and the difficulties involved in the transmission, over hundreds of miles, of the delicate vibrations needed to convey articulate speech, the wonder that this has been successfully achieved is far greater than that excited by the relatively new and highly boomed wireless telegraphy.

So much public interest has been aroused in, and unfortunately so much public inconvenience has necessarily been caused by, the extensive operations necessary to establish the Post Office system in London, that it is thought that some description of the work involved in the establishment of a modern telephone exchange system may interest the readers of the magazine.

It will be remembered that a Treasury Minute was issued on the 8th of May, 1899, which was published in *St. Martin's-le-Grand* of July in the same year, the outcome of which was the passing of an Act which, amongst other clauses, authorised the raising of a sum to be spent in the provision of a complete telephone system for Greater London.

The area of Greater London which has to be dealt with covers 640 square miles. It extends from Chipping Barnet and Enfield in the north to Bromley, Croydon, and Redhill in the south, and from Romford, Erith, and Crayford in the east to Harrow, Hanwell, and Hounslow in the west; and it has an estimated population of 6,000,000 inhabitants.

The establishment of an extensive exchange system like that needed under such conditions involves the solution of many problems presenting serious difficulties. First, it is necessary to determine the form of switch to be used. Secondly, by means of a thorough and complete survey, to estimate the number of subscribers for whom provision should be made, to settle the position of the exchanges, the number of ducts to be laid, and the capacity of

the cables to be drawn in at the outset. Thirdly, to fix on the character of the underground work which will best meet all the requirements, and to prepare the innumerable schedules, plans, and working drawings which must all be ready and available before the work can be commenced. Lastly, comes the actual execution of the work under conditions which most Londoners have more or less realised within the past year.

THE SWITCH AT THE EXCHANGE AND THE METHOD OF WORKING.—Although practical telephony has only about reached its majority, the advances that have been made in the art have actually revolutionised the earlier methods. Each of the great manufacturers of telephone switches and a whole army of telephone engineers have been engaged for years, with varying degrees of success, in devising new methods of working, so that exhaustive enquiries were necessary before a determination could be arrived at as to which of the numerous forms of switches actually in use best met the requirements of the Service. The system adopted by the Department was described in a paper read before the Society of Arts in April, 1899, and reprinted in *St. Martin's-le-Grand* of July in the same year, so that a reference to that article renders it unnecessary to enlarge on the subject in the present sketch.

THE SURVEY.—The preparation of what is practically a telephonic census is an operation involving a vast amount of work and the exercise of very great discrimination. In this instance, not only was every street in the city and neighbourhood carefully patrolled, and estimates prepared showing their probable telephonic requirements, but notes were taken of the number of tenancies in every building containing suites of offices or chambers, and this and all other information available was utilized in preparing these primary estimates. Similar investigations were made in the remainder of the districts to be first served, and they are being continued throughout the whole of the telephone area. From this primary foundation is built up a series of plans and schedules showing, in the first place, the number of ducts that ought to be laid in any given line of conduits, to provide for the maximum number of subscribers estimated for, and in the second place for the number of wires to be drawn into the ducts in the first instance. It is considered an axiom in telephone work that, in the original laying out of the lines, 50 per cent. of the total number of ducts shall be spare for future emergencies, as it is obvious that the re-opening of the ground for the laying of additional ducts along the busy thoroughfares of a great

city is an impracticable proceeding. Thus these lines of conduits, which at the extremities of an exchange area commence with one or two ducts, gradually increase in number till, for example, at the central exchange, which is to be established at the Post Office Savings Bank, there are no less than 210 ducts which concentrate at that point. The districts beyond the economical range of the central exchange have to be served by branch exchanges to be established in separate localities, each providing for the wants of a circle with a radius varying from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 miles, and in each instance, as the result of surveys similar to those described, a like system is built up. At the present moment the exchanges that are provided for comprise the central exchange, serving the city and its immediate surroundings, and branch exchanges at Westminster, Kensington, Chiswick (for Hammersmith and the neighbourhood), Putney, Richmond, Twickenham, Kingston, Wimbledon, and Croydon. As the work of duct laying progresses towards completion, additional areas are taken in hand, so that practically within another 12 months not only will the districts enumerated above be working on an extensive scale, but the remaining residential districts both north and south will have been covered with the necessary ducts and pipes, and they in their turn will be ready to be incorporated in this great system.

THE CABLES.—The great discovery which has rendered modern telephony practicable on a large scale is the invention of the so-called Dry Core Paper Cable. When the erection of telephone circuits was first commenced there were two alternatives—the use of overhead wires or the use of gutta percha insulated underground wires. Both these methods were costly and inefficient. The use of overhead wires for very large exchanges involved, generally speaking, the erection of single wire circuits with an earth return, as the difficulties, great as they were in providing for some thousands of overhead wires, would have been almost insurmountable if these wires had had to be duplicated to provide metallic circuits. On the other hand gutta percha is becoming scarcer and dearer every year, and this increase in rarity and in price is unfortunately accompanied by a decrease in durability, so that a cheap underground service of gutta percha wires would be impracticable. The invention of the paper cable solved all these difficulties. In this type of cable small wires are wrapped round with paper, twisted up in pairs, made up into cables, and then dried in specially prepared ovens until practically every appreciable particle of moisture is driven off. They are then

cabled together and covered with a leaden sheath, and in this condition they are ready for being drawn into the pipes and ducts which are used for their protection. Fig. 1 shows a specimen with the wires opened out at one extremity to illustrate the construction. Their electrostatic capacity is only one-fourth that of the gutta percha wires, which, being put into plain language, means that we can telephone satisfactorily through four times the length of underground paper cable that we could if the wires were insulated with gutta percha, and further, a 3-inch pipe which will only carry 80 gutta percha insulated wires will provide for 434 dry-core cable wires. The result of these changes will be appreciated when it is considered that the 210 ducts concentrated at the Savings Bank exchange will in round figures accommodate 85,000 wires, whereas with the old method of working they would only accommodate 16,500.

CHARACTER OF UNDERGROUND WORK.—In the past the Department has restricted itself almost exclusively to the use of cast iron pipes for its underground conduits, and where the number to be laid conjointly is limited there is, on the whole, no better or more reliable system available. Where, however, the number required is in excess of a certain figure, not only would the use of these pipes become extremely costly, but the space taken up would be greater than the limited amount of room, available in the main thoroughfares, would admit of being appropriated for the

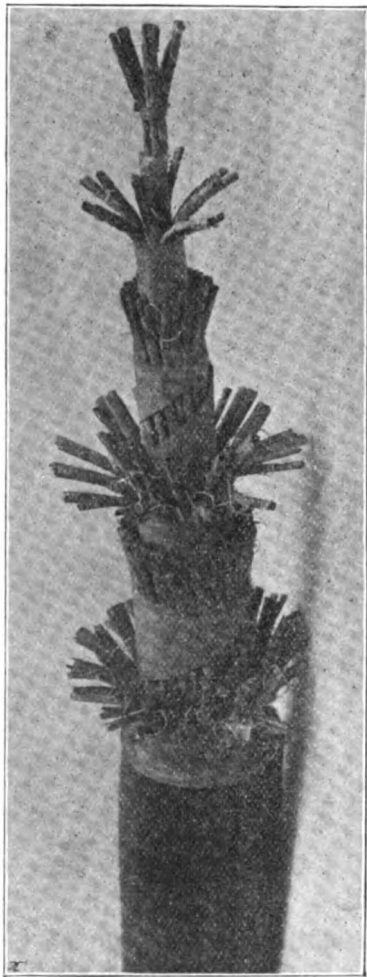


FIG. 1. DRY CORE PAPER CABLE

purpose. Many other forms of ducts, constructed of various materials, have been devised, but after full consideration it was decided that a simple form of earthenware duct from 18 inches to 24 inches in length, with an internal diameter of $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches,

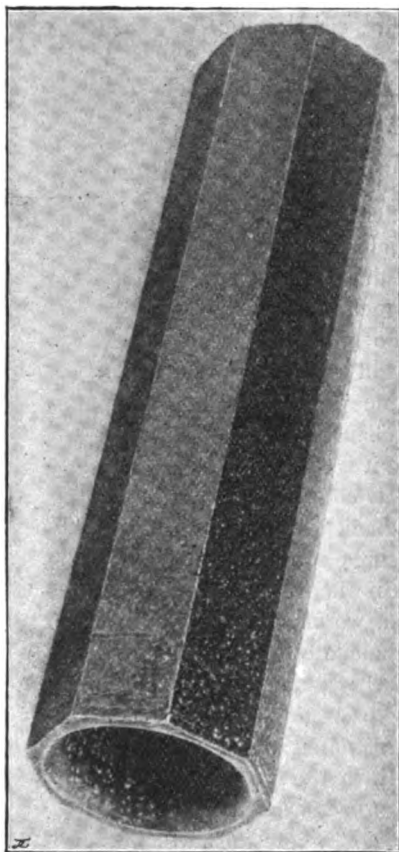


FIG. 2. EARTHENWARE DUCT.

would best comply with the varying conditions to be met with. This duct is illustrated in Fig. 2.

In practice, where a number of these have to be provided they are laid on a bed of concrete 6 inches thick, through which run a couple of Tee irons to prevent vertical subsidence. The ducts are bedded in cement and laid so as to break joints, and they are surrounded, both at the sides and on the top, with further layers of concrete, so

that, when complete, they form a continuous and homogeneous structure which should last for all time, and they will ultimately provide an interesting subject of study for Macaulay's New Zealander. Figs. 3 and 4 illustrate a line of these ducts in course of construction.

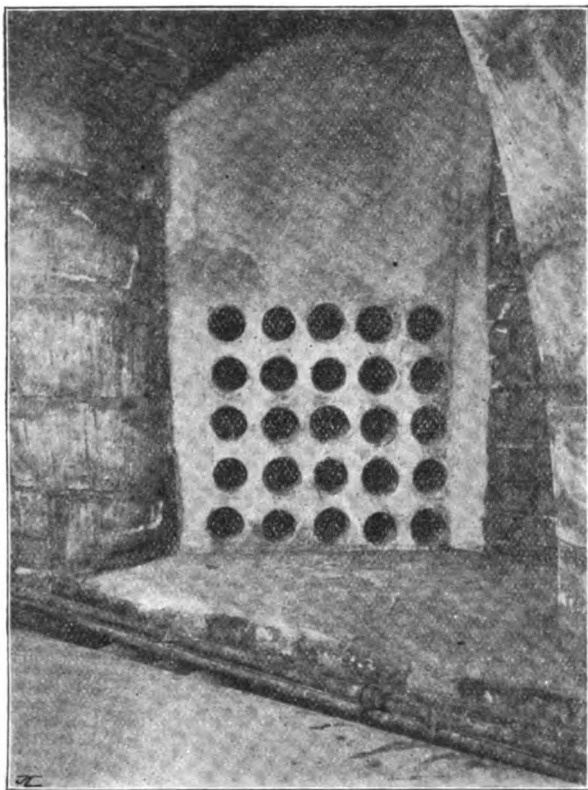


FIG. 3. THE END OF A COMPLETED LINE OF DUCTS.

At convenient intervals manholes are placed which give access to the lines of ducts, so that cables can be drawn in, connections made, and work carried on without again opening up the streets or blocking the traffic. Fig. 5 illustrates the interior of one of these manholes in course of construction.

In some of the more modern thoroughfares subways, provided by the local authorities, were available, and suitable staging has been erected for the support of the telephone cables.

Broadly speaking, when six conduits or upwards are needed, the earthenware ducts are used, but where five or less are required iron pipes are laid.

In addition to these main lines of ducts, distributing cast iron pipes, three inches in diameter, which terminate in all cases in manholes, are provided along the footways, and from these pipes connection will be made from distributing boxes with subscribers' offices or residences, as in the case of gas, water or electric light.

In the interior of the Metropolis, therefore, there will be no objectionable overhead work, with its liability to interruptions from snow-storms, or to costly alterations owing to notices of removal from householders, so that the work, once complete, will be of an absolutely stable character.

THE EXECUTION OF THE WORK.—The laying of an underground system in virgin soil would be a comparatively simple matter, as it would merely be necessary to specify the depth, course and position to be followed in every case and the work would then proceed on ordinary engineering lines. In London, however, matters assume a very different aspect, for, apart from the original system of sewers, and starting from a period of two centuries ago, when the New River Company laid its wooden water-pipes through great portions of the City, unceasing operations of digging and laying pipes and ducts of all sizes and for various purposes have been going on. These pipes range from the great 2 feet 6 inch to 3 feet gas and water mains, with their innumerable minor service pipes crossing the road in all directions, down to the pipes and conduits for hydraulic, pneumatic, telegraph, telephone, and electric light purposes, so that in some cases a regular maze of obstructions is encountered.

The laying out of the actual work, therefore, corresponds to some extent to the navigation of an unknown sea, filled with shallows and rocks; and as the navigator in such a case has to thread his way slowly and cautiously by taking careful soundings, so the telephone engineer has to make his soundings in the shape of pilot holes at regular intervals in advance of his work. These pilot holes are dug transversely across the road, and measurements are taken and drawings are made showing the respective positions of all the pipes and obstacles encountered. The probable routes of those obstructions, along the unopened portions between the successive pilot holes, is then sketched in on the plans, and the actual trench for the ducts is commenced at a depth and in a direction which will apparently carry the work clear of the obstacles which have been discovered.



FIG. 4.—TRENCH READY FOR DUCT LAYING.

[To face page 132.]

to the
author

Even then it is not all smooth sailing, for occasionally unexpected diversions occur in the routes of the pipes that are known, or other unexpected difficulties arise which have not been revealed by the soundings and which involve special methods to overcome them. Sometimes the telephone ducts are fanned out, so that instead of being built up in a square section they open out into broad shallow layers one or two deep only. At other times the original formation is maintained, but the trench is gradually deepened until a clear route is discovered, or, on the other hand, lateral diversions have

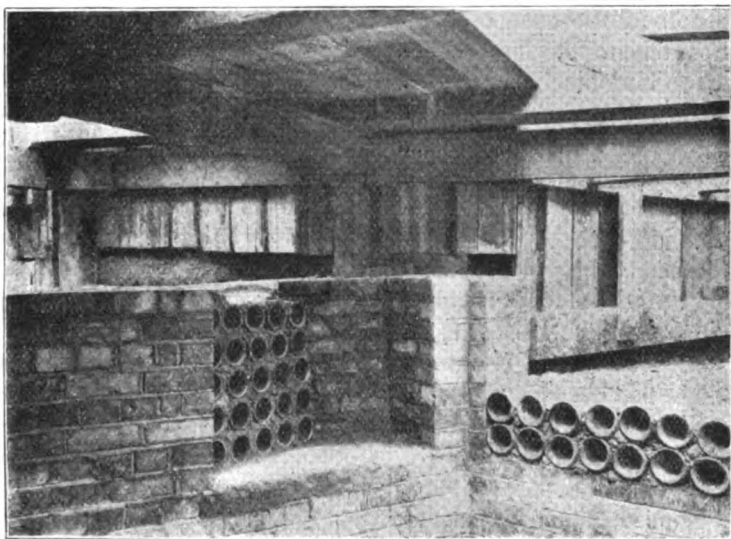


FIG. 5. A MANHOLE IN COURSE OF CONSTRUCTION.

occasionally to be resorted to. However, with patience and perseverance all difficulties are overcome, and at the date of writing it may be said that so far as the majority of the more important and more busy City streets are concerned, this great work of duct laying has been effectually carried out.

As the duct laying is completed in any given section, the drawing in of the cables is commenced. The larger cables, *i.e.*, those containing 434 conductors, weigh no less than 19 tons per mile, and in practice suitable lengths of these are coiled on large drums, for convenience of transport and handling. When ready for cabling one of these drums is mounted on an axle immediately over a manhole, and the cable is hauled through the selected duct by means of a long

rope which has been previously threaded through the duct and which is attached to a winch at the distant end. When the ducts are properly laid and the cable sufficiently lubricated, very long lengths can be drawn in without injury.

The cables in any given line of ducts may be divided into two classes, those for local service, and those for the service of more distant localities. At each manhole the former are specially treated. A defined number of pairs of conductors are brought out of the cable, and so connected up as to be available at any time for the use of subscribers within a certain distance of the manhole, without disturbing the main cable itself. These selected pairs are joined from time to time, and as required, to distributing cables which are drawn into the distributing pipes from the manhole to the distribution box nearest to the intending subscriber's premises, and thence into the premises themselves. The remainder of the wires in the main cable are simply joined through to the next manhole and treated in a similar manner and so on. On the other hand, each section of through cable is joined up to the following section at every consecutive manhole till the locality to be served is reached, when the method of local distribution described above, or such modification as the circumstances may require, is adopted.

All jointing has to be carried out with very great care, first to insure that the wires shall not get inextricably mixed up, and in the next place to avoid the entrance of the slightest particle of moisture, whether from the atmosphere or other sources, as this would ruin the whole cable.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES.—Considering the extent of the excavations the discoveries of archæological interest have so far been comparatively few. In Cheapside and Cannon Street the workmen, as on previous occasions, came across some of the wooden water pipes laid by the New River Company early in the 18th Century. These consisted of elm trees, from which the branches had of course been lopped off, and through the centre of which a hole eight inches in diameter had been bored. The tapering top of one tree was fitted into the enlarged butt of the next, and in this way continuous lines of water pipes were provided which served in practice for very many years. Again, at a point where Bucklersbury branches off from The Poultry, an underground subway, terminated in a vaulted chamber (Fig. 6), was discovered. The origin and purpose of this vault are both obscure. At Newgate, a stone socket, supposed to have formed part of the foundation of the old gate, was dug up, and

in Old Bailey a skeleton, apparently that of a malefactor, with huge rusty shackles on one of the legs, was unearthed. As a rule, however, the excavations have not extended to a sufficient depth to lead to discoveries of great importance, or even of much interest.

THE EXCHANGE.—The actual equipment of a modern Telephone Exchange is a somewhat complex subject. First the paper cables



FIG. 6. VAULTED CHAMBER UNDER THE POULTRY.

are led into the basement of the building, where arrangements are made for pumping dry air into them, should this become necessary in order to remove a fault. Thence they are extended by suitable conductors to what is termed the "main distributing board," a piece of apparatus which fulfils the following functions. It enables a suitable pair of wires to be selected at any time for connection with the

premises of any proposed subscriber; on it are fixed lightning protectors, which form an outlet for any discharges of atmospheric electricity that may enter the circuits; and it is likewise, where necessary, provided with "heat coils," which are designed to aid in the cutting off of powerful currents from tramway lines in the event of overhead telephone wires coming into accidental contact with the trolley wires which are now becoming so common in all large towns. Several exchanges have been destroyed through these powerful trolley currents setting the switch apparatus on fire.

From the main distributing board wires are carried to the "intermediate distributing board," which is an arrangement that admits of the subscribers' lines being so re-distributed on the local sections of the switch, from time to time as will admit of the work being equally divided amongst the operators. Without some such means of re-arranging the circuits it would frequently happen that a large number of busy subscribers were placed by accident under the control of one operator, while a second operator would practically have relatively little to do. From the intermediate distributing board the wires are extended to the various pieces of apparatus necessary for working, as described in the Society of Arts paper, and likewise to a conversation meter which is provided for recording the number of conversations originated by each subscriber.

THE COMPLETE SCHEME.—There is unquestionably a very great future for the telephone. Up to the present, for reasons which need not now be considered, its development has been relatively restricted in and around the Metropolis, *i.e.*, the number of subscribers to the existing system is somewhat small relatively to the enormous population. Illustrations of the rapid growth of the telephone, under comparatively favourable conditions, can be obtained by those fond of statistics on reference to the blue books which have been issued in the last few years.

There is little doubt that when the London system is in complete working order a growth equivalent to that in other well telephoned centres may be fairly looked forward to. The conditions in London so far as the Department is concerned, however, are in a certain sense unique. Most systems have grown gradually during a period of fifteen or twenty years, and they have been and are being added to from time to time as the needs of the traffic dictate. In the Post Office system an immense plant is being provided at once to meet the estimated requirements of the Metropolis, and this condition of things is accompanied by certain advantages and by some

corresponding disadvantages. The advantages are that the Department is now profiting by the accumulated experience of the past twenty years of telephone work throughout the whole of the world, and it is in a position to lay down an up-to-date system free from the drawbacks of the early trials and the sacrifice of plant and of capital that all new ventures entail. On the other hand, the work involved by the carrying out of such a huge undertaking within a limited space of time is enormous. Innumerable difficulties of various kinds, most of them due to the high pressure at which the work has to be conducted, are constantly met with, and are only overcome by unremitting efforts. Further, in the initial stages the undertaking has somewhat the character of a leap in the dark. Thus the most anxious care and thought have throughout to be devoted not only to the consideration of the numerous questions, involving endless technical details, which come up for solution constantly, but equally if not more important still, to the determination of the extent of the provision to be made in each locality, so that all reasonable requirements may be met without any unjustifiable outlay being incurred.

Unquestionably, however, the advantages far outweigh the disadvantages, and the telephone will ultimately become of such general use that there can be no question that the whole of the plant which the Department is now providing will within a reasonable period of time be fully utilized.

J. GAVEY.



LE BUREAU INTERNATIONAL
DE
L'UNION POSTALE
UNIVERSELLE

VOUS PRIE D'AGREER SES SOUHAITS DE

BONNE ANNEE.

BERNE le 1^{er} JANVIER 1901.

A NEW YEAR'S CARD FROM THE INTERNATIONAL BUREAU OF THE
POSTAL UNION.

*The Retirement of Mr. Cardin.**



RUMOUR that Mr. Cardin was about to retire caused the first official sensation of the century.

Could there be anything in it? Would he not surely stay the five sweet years of grace? Why should he cool when even loves that smoulder till sixty blaze into sudden passion at the thought of parting?

An absurd rumour! Besides, his behaviour was quite inconsistent with it. He came up on atrocious days at his usual hour and coughed his acknowledgments to the weather. He had been terribly particular about the Appropriation Account and difficult to satisfy over the Estimates. His initials were no cheaper, his rod no lighter. He was just as jovial, just as testy, just as easy, and just as exacting as ever. Assuredly he had no thought of going.

But the rumour persisted, and after a fortnight's flouting became fact.

Yes, he was going. And going, alas! because the doctor, long defied and now alarmed by the cough which had become a characteristic, insisted that it was more than time to seek a milder summer than St. Martin's.

The Department at large heard the news with real regret, for he was perhaps the most widely known member of the hierarchy and his popularity was always great. As for the Accountant-General's office, that cold region where, according to one whom other gates enclose, facts and figures take the place of flesh and blood, it was stirred to something very like emotion. For if within the circle of its ample family some thought his prejudices strong, his preferences capricious, there was no denying that he had made their name respected, got them into better society, and procured them almost as much pocket money as their cousins who live near the West End.

Those who can speak of Mr. Cardin from intimate knowledge during his early years in the Post Office are mostly members of the body pensionary he has now joined, and the writer has not been able to collect reminiscences which might be helpful to young men of the present day. Such accounts as can be obtained of this period may be summarized in a sentence. He was an active and enthusiastic volunteer and there was nothing of the ascetic about him.

*A portrait of Mr. Cardin appeared in our January issue at page 14.

He was appointed in 1859 to the Receiver and Accountant-General's Office, a then recent blend of two offices formerly distinct. The writer's earliest recollection of the Cardin of fifteen years later is as a severe critic of the amalgamation, which was, he used to say, unsound in every way. As re-partition would have meant more numerous (if less lucrative) positions of dignity, the view was not unpopular among the more "likely" of the rank and file: but it soon ceased to trouble its original champion, and found no other.

In 1875 Mr. Cardin, then a First Class Clerk, was moved into the Foreign Branch of the office. Here he found his tide and took it at the flood.

A new contract for the Eastern Mail Service had just furnished the Indian Post Office with occasion for challenging in principle and detail the elaborate assessments in which the share of cost assigned to India had been worked out by the British Post Office. Parliamentary committees had devoted sitting after sitting to the examination of these principles, had blessed them, and hallowed them. The questions at issue were of appalling complexity and large sums were involved. The Receiver and Accountant-General (Mr. Chetwynd) took a keen interest in the dispute, and Mr. Cardin, as "Head of the Duty," was brought into close personal relation with his chief. Letters passed, the Director-General came over from Calcutta, neither side would give way. In 1876 Lord Salisbury, then at the India Office, suggested that the matter should be submitted to the arbitration of Viscount Halifax, a former Secretary of State. The Treasury agreed, and the Postmaster-General nominated Mr. Chetwynd and Mr. Cardin to argue the case for the Department. The result was entirely satisfactory, and appreciation of Mr. Cardin's services was marked by his promotion to the first principal clerkship that fell vacant.

He had worked so hard as seriously to impair his eyesight for a time, but his reputation was established and his ascent of the office was destined to be phenomenally rapid.

In 1877 Mr. Chetwynd's health showed signs of failing under the strain of his work, and the post of Assistant Receiver and Accountant General was created to afford him some relief. To this position Mr. Richardson, the Principal Bookkeeper, was appointed; and he in turn was succeeded by Mr. Cardin, then last on the list of principal clerks. It was only a few months since the principal clerks, conscious then, like their successors to-day, of being the salt of the office, had welcomed him to their ranks as one whose

favour in high places might make patent the miserable inadequacy of their scale. To part so soon from so promising a colleague was indeed hard; and the lamentations of that time revealed to at least one official babe the unsuspected fact that principal clerks were really quite human.

Mr. Cardin was Principal Bookkeeper from July 1877 until December 1882 when, on the death of Mr. Chetwynd and the accession of Mr. Richardson, he became Assistant Receiver and Accountant General. During this period Mr. Chetwynd's health gradually faltered and, though his clear intellect remained unclouded to the end, he had not the physical strength for oral discussion. But of oral discussion (for which Mr. Richardson was handicapped by deafness) there arose a great need. For Mr. Fawcett came to the Post Office thirsting for facts, figures, and "financial effect"; and eager to listen night and day to first-hand information.

Now Mr. Cardin was ever greater at the spoken word than the written. And Sir Spencer Walpole has laid it down emphatically that there is no such thing as luck. Whence we may infer that if a convincing talker should again happen to find himself three places from the top of his office he may count upon two seniors unequal to conversation and a Postmaster-General avid of auricular evidence.

But whatever of fortune there may have been in the conjunction of circumstances which brought Mr. Cardin directly under the notice of the new Postmaster-General, there was no doubt about the impression he produced. Mr. Fawcett's tenure of office is famous for the number, the importance, and the success of its enterprises; and Mr. Cardin was called upon for active participation in all that went on. His work was very largely consultative and much of it was done at the House of Commons, where he was to be found pretty regularly either in the Postmaster-General's room or occupying one of those convenient seats which, technically without, are practically within the House itself. Mr. Fawcett's energy was inexhaustible, and the chimes at midnight had no terrors for Mr. Cardin who, though (greatly to the disgust of his office) an early riser, was never guilty of the antecedent vice of going to bed in good time. Accordingly it was no uncommon thing for a discussion which had outlasted the intervals of a Parliamentary debate to be carried over Westminster Bridge and concluded at Mr. Fawcett's house long after *the* House had risen. It was hard work, but of a kind that suited Mr. Cardin's temperament admirably. That it was highly appreciated by Mr. Fawcett is evident from his

speeches, which abound in acknowledgments from which the note of personal regard is never absent.

If a half suggestion of Mr. Cardin's luck was hinted above, what shall be said as to the possibilities which may have been ruled out by Mr. Fawcett's premature death in 1884? When Mr. Cardin looks back with legitimate pride and pleasure to the value placed on his friendship by this strong Minister, one can imagine him putting the question softly to himself and sighing because even his strikingly successful career does not quite supply the answer.

This perhaps is the chronological moment for mentioning that Mr. Cardin is one of the few people who never posed as the parent of the postal order. He always ascribed that honour to Mr. Chetwynd and contented himself with discharging the duties of a foster-father and keeping out the wicked uncle who claimed to be the child's natural guardian.

Early in 1882 we find Mr. Cardin submitting to a Select Committee, of which Mr. Fawcett was chairman, the scheme (now in operation) for working Post Office insurances and annuities through the medium of a Savings Bank account. "The only apology," says he in his evidence, "which I can offer for not having thought of this before is that it is so simple."

It was perhaps this excursion into Savings Bank matters which led to his being placed in charge of that department when Mr. Ramsey retired towards the end of 1882. It is an open secret that he was pressed to take the Controllership; but the death of Mr. Chetwynd just then gave him the second place in his own office and he preferred to return.

About this time the Department entered upon what its historians will doubtless classify as the Committee Period. These bodies were cordially hated in the Accountant-General's office, as Mr. Cardin, who was a member of most of them, had an uncomfortable habit of returning to the office late of an afternoon and impounding everyone he could catch to work out voluminous whatnots for next morning's sitting. There is a true and characteristic story of how Mr. Cardin at one committee meeting based a proposal on a set of figures which related to another matter, and of how, while he was speaking, the committee's secretary quietly passed him a correction. Even now that secretary doesn't quite know how it was done: but he will never forget the wink with which Mr. Cardin changed front and the absolute unconsciousness of the committee that anything funny had happened.

In January 1886 Mr. Richardson died and Mr. Cardin became Receiver and Accountant-General, thus reaching the top of his office and receiving a fourth promotion within ten years of his initial success.

Into departmental details of the next ten years there is not space to enter here ; but two extra-departmental matters in which he took a deep interest should perhaps be chronicled. These are his work for and evidence before the Royal Commission on Old Age Pensions, and his membership of a Board of Trade Committee for protecting British sailors from crimps by transmitting their wages home from the port of discharge.

In January 1897 Mr. Cardin's title was changed to Comptroller and Accountant-General and he was invested with certain powers formerly exercised by the Financial Secretary. In the Accountant-General's Department the circumstance was regarded as a recognition rather than an alteration, but it caused some stir elsewhere. Later in the same year Mr. Cardin was made a Companion of the Bath on the occasion of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. And with dramatic fitness his early friend India came over again to see him full of honours and let him renew his youth by winning a second arbitration.

Mr. Cardin's military biography was given in the last number of *St. Martin's*, and the present writer (who has himself carried a Field Marshal's bâton in his knapsack) has resisted all temptation to introduce camp stories in a sketch which already trenches on the space the Editor has placed at his disposal.

He does not pretend however that considerations of space hinder him from fulfilling one intention with which he set out. That intention was to make a masterly analysis of Mr. Cardin's personality ; to bring out clearly the strength, the weakness, and the complexity of his character. Frankly, the writer finds the task beyond him. Possibly the facts are too numerous and too fresh for easy generalisation : possibly the emotions with which he has at various times regarded his old chief are too mixed and contradictory for embodiment. Anyhow, he echoes the cheers which rang from Committee Room 33 when Mr. Cardin came back to accept the souvenirs of some six hundred friends, and renews the hope that for many a long year to come the old Department may furnish a certain periodical document, always welcome in spite of its insulting dedication to the Vote for Non-Effective Services.

A.G.D.

H. DAVIES.

Post Office Progress during the Past Hundred Years.—II.



WITH the advent of Mr. Fawcett at the Post Office, a new order of things sprang into existence. From the very first he brought his untiring energy and earnest application to bear upon the work of the Department, with the result that the Post Office woke up from the state of lethargy into which it had been lulled for many years previously, and sprang into a life of nervous activity. Mr. Fawcett came to the Post Office at what may be described as the psychological moment. Many projects were in the air, but they seemed to hang fire for want of a leading spirit with indomitable will to carry them to a successful issue. Postal Orders had been talked of for some years, and so also had the Parcel Post system, while it was recognised that there were many improvements which could be introduced into the system of the Post Office Savings Bank. It was to the last named department that Mr. Fawcett first turned his attention.

At that time, the Post Office Savings Bank had been in existence about nineteen years, having been instituted in the year 1861. In remarking at the close of the previous article, that nothing of a striking character had taken place between 1840 and 1880, I was, of course, referring to purely postal matters. I had not overlooked so remarkable an institution as the Savings Bank Department, which has grown to such gigantic proportions and whose benefits to the masses are so wide-reaching and conspicuous. The germ of the idea had been floating about for years. Indeed, at the very beginning of the past century a plan was formulated by Mr. Whitbread, M.P., for a Government Savings Bank system to be worked through the agency of the Post Office. It came to nothing, however, and it was not until 1859 that the subject was again taken up in a tangible form, though in the interval it had never been lost sight of, having been ventilated in various ways in a feeble and half-hearted manner. In the year named, the late Sir Charles W. Sikes, of Huddersfield, suggested a plan for a system of Savings Banks under Government control. The idea was to use every Money Order Office for the receipt of Savings Bank deposits and the payment of withdrawals, the system to be administered from a Central Bank in London. The plan was too crude and incomplete to be

carried into practice, but the principle appears to have been accepted, and Sir Charles Sikes' name has always been associated with the Post Office Savings Bank system. It was the late George Chetwynd, C.B., who, in 1860, formulated the working scheme which was adopted by Mr. Gladstone and sanctioned by Parliament on the 17th of May, 1861. The popularity of the system has made the functions of the Bank so well known that it is unnecessary to enter here into any description of the plan which has done so much to foster and encourage habits of thrift among millions of the people. It need only be said that the system is practically now what it was at its initiation, so far as ordinary deposits are concerned.

When Mr. Fawcett came to the Post Office, there was considerable agitation amongst those who prominently supported the cause of thrift for a reduction of the lower limit of one shilling, so that the poorest classes might be reached. It was to this matter that Mr. Fawcett first addressed himself, and he was enabled to surmount the difficulties which lay in the way of a reduction of limit by the adoption of a simple plan which Mr. Chetwynd, the then Receiver and Accountant General, placed before him. The plan was the now well-known postage stamp slip scheme, under which, twelve penny stamps affixed to a slip provided by the Post Office are accepted as a deposit in the Post Office Savings Bank. The plan was tried at the end of the year 1880 in certain counties tentatively, and at once became so popular that it was speedily extended to all offices throughout the country. Its success was so pronounced, that in six months from the commencement of the plan more than 576,000 slips had been received, and more than 223,000 new accounts had been opened thereby; and it is satisfactory to know that the plan still forms one of the most popular features of the Savings Bank system. It was also in 1880, that a system was introduced under Mr. Fawcett's auspices for the purchase of Government Stock for depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank. The limits of amounts which might be purchased in one year were £10 and £100, or £300 in all; but these have since been altered, and are now 1/- and £200 in one year, and £500 in all. The scheme appealed so much to depositors, that in less than two months after it was instituted more than £127,000 stock stood to their credit, and the success of the Savings Bank's operations in this direction has steadily continued.

It was also due to Mr. Fawcett that the existing system of Government Annuities and Life Insurance was brought into operation in connection with the Savings Bank department. The

plan, which is well known, is simple, and should have proved popular, but, so far, the success with which it has been attended has been very limited.

The most important Post Office scheme with which Mr. Fawcett's name is associated is no doubt the Parcel Post, which was successfully carried into operation on the 1st August, 1883. There were many obstacles and difficulties to be encountered, and much opposition on the part of the railway companies to be combated, but Mr. Fawcett, with his indomitable will, overcame them all. As may be imagined, the system was gladly hailed by the public, who at once made great use of it. From time to time various improvements have been introduced with the view of widening the facilities offered by the Service. A natural development was the extension of the system in 1885 to foreign countries and our colonial possessions, while it was also soon found possible to apply a system of insurance of, and compensation for loss or damage of parcels, both at home and abroad. The benefits of both these improvements were readily recognised by the public, and the Parcel Service as a whole has proved eminently successful, the number of parcels delivered in a year in the United Kingdom alone being at the rate of not far short of 80 millions.

Not less popular than the Parcel Post was the system of Postal Orders instituted on the 1st January, 1881, or less than one year after Mr. Fawcett came to the Post Office. As already stated, Postal Orders had for some years previously been spoken of, and it was, indeed, so far back as 1874 that Mr. Chetwynd, to whom the present system of Postal Orders is due, put forward his original proposition. The plan went through many vicissitudes. In 1876 it was inquired into by a committee of experts, by whom, after being thoroughly examined, it was recommended for adoption. Bills to give effect to the plan were introduced into Parliament during successive sessions, but the pressure of public business appears to have crowded them out. It was not until 1880, when Mr. Fawcett piloted it through the House of Commons, that the Postal Order bill finally became law. The well-known and immensely popular system soon reaped a success far beyond the anticipations of its originator, to whom the circumstance must have been a source of much gratification. In 1883, a second Postal Order Act was passed, under which several modifications were sanctioned, including the sale of British postal orders in the Colonies, &c. This extension commenced to be carried out in 1884, and postal orders

are now issued in India, and many of our possessions abroad. The popularity of the Postal Order system has never waned; on the contrary, it increases year by year, and, to indicate the measure of success it has achieved, it may be stated that the yearly rate of issue at the present time is over 86 millions, representing in amount £29,000,000.

At the end of 1884, Mr. Fawcett's career at the Post Office was cut short by the untimely hand of death, much to the general regret. Had he lived, he would doubtless have successfully carried out many more Post Office reforms, but, as it was, his example had stimulated the Department into fresh and renewed energy, and many beneficial changes have occurred since then.

The acquisition in 1870 by the Post Office of the telegraph wires of the country was a step of the utmost importance, and one that had long been agitated for. The story is an oft-told one, and need not be repeated here; suffice it to say that the reduced charges, the uniformity of the rate, and the general increase in facilities which were the immediate consequences of the transfer, did much to popularise telegraphy in this country, and caused general satisfaction to the public.

The reduction in 1885 of the telegraphic rates for inland rates from a minimum charge of 1/- for 20 words to $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per word, with a minimum charge of 6d., was a later important change in the Telegraph Service. There had long been much agitation for this reduction, as the shilling rate, which had in 1870 been a welcome change from the almost prohibitive rates of the telegraph companies, had grown to be regarded as high in days when the tendency was towards popular prices. The 6d. telegram was more in accordance with the spirit of the times, and, as might be supposed, has done much to develop and extend telegraph business.

The acquisition of the telegraphs has proved useful in relation to other branches of the Post Office Service. Thus, it has been applied, with most useful results, to both the Money Order Service and the Savings Bank Department. In September, 1889, telegraphic money orders were issued experimentally. In less than six months over 2,000 such orders were issued, and, in view of this success, the system was in 1890 extended to all head and branch post offices, while in 1892 it was still further extended to all money order offices which are also telegraph offices. The number of telegraphic money orders issued in the first year was 30,000, and they have so rapidly increased each year that the rate of issue at the present time is over 312,000,

thus showing how largely advantage is taken of the system. The average amount of the inland telegraph order is £3 4s. It may be added that this useful system has been extended to many foreign countries with equally beneficial results. As an example of the utility of the extension, it may be mentioned that one of the earliest telegraph orders received from Norway was despatched from Vardo within the Arctic Circle. It was issued at Vardo at 1.25 p.m. on the 11th of February, and was delivered in London the same afternoon. An ordinary order, advised by post, would not at that time of year have been received until twelve days later.

The telegraph was not brought into use for facilitating the withdrawal of money from the Savings Bank Department until December, 1893. The matter had long been under consideration, but the department hesitated to sanction the new departure. It was recognised, of course, that there were cases where the withdrawal of money without delay would be of the utmost importance, and might save a depositor from debt and distress. On the other hand, it was held that the cause of thrift was sometimes served by interposing a delay between a sudden desire to spend and its realization, and that it was essential to maintain a marked distinction between a bank of deposit for savings and a bank for keeping current accounts. The balance of opinion was in favour of the change, and two new methods of withdrawal were provided. A depositor might telegraph for his money and have his warrant sent to him by return of post, or he might telegraph for his money and have it paid to him in an hour or two on the authority of a telegram from the Savings Bank to the postmaster. The first method would cost him about 9d., and the second about 1/3 for the transaction. The system is largely used by depositors, and in the last recorded year 161,190 withdrawals were made by telegraph on the day of application, and 11,400 by return of post.

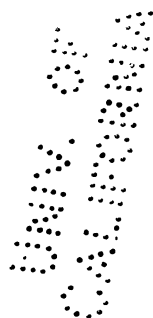
The most marked change which took place in postal matters towards the close of the nineteenth century was the introduction of Imperial Penny Postage on Christmas Day, 1898. This much desired reform had been agitated for, in and out of Parliament, for many years prior to its realization, but it was retarded by the presence of many practical difficulties which could not at the time be overcome. Ultimately, proposals were addressed by the Imperial Post Office to the postal administrators of the various British colonies and dependencies for a two-penny rate of letter postage within the Empire, but Canada stuck out for a three-halfpenny rate, and the

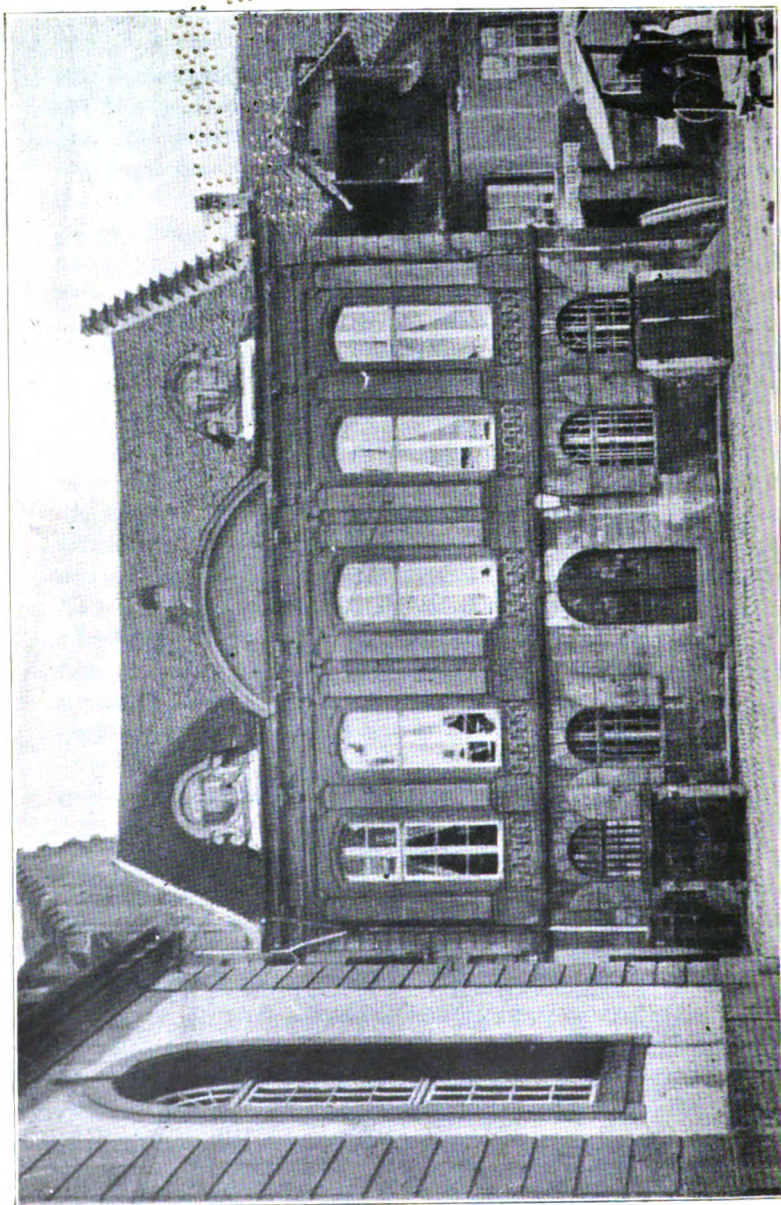
outcome was a conference of representatives of the Imperial Government and India and the colonies who met in London in June and July, 1898, to consider the question. The result was the establishment of a uniform rate of one penny the half-ounce on letters passing between the Mother Country and British India, Canada, Natal, Newfoundland, the crown colonies, and British protectorates, or between those colonies themselves. Australasia and the Cape Colony were the only important parts of the Empire which did not adhere to the penny postage scheme, but Cape Colony and New Zealand have since adopted it, and the system now only requires the adhesion of Australia to be co-extensive with the British Empire. Let us hope that ere long this will be remedied, for the scheme is one that cannot fail to yield the most beneficial results both from a practical and sentimental point of view. It is, indeed, to be regarded as the most notable of Post Office reforms in the latter half of the nineteenth century, and it has already done much to cement the bond of unity between the various populations of the British possessions abroad and the Mother Country which constitute this great Empire. It is not unreasonable to suppose that it will pave the way for further realization of Imperialistic principles in other directions by the Post Office. Nothing would be more popular at the present time than the introduction of an Imperial Postal Order, and so far as can be seen there are no insuperable difficulties in the way of accomplishing so very desirable a result. If, before the year is out, such a system could become an accomplished fact, the circumstance would form a splendid epoch in the history of the Post Office at the commencement of the twentieth century.

I have briefly touched upon the more notable points of progress in Post Office history during the past hundred years, but it is, of course, not to be forgotten, that numerous minor improvements and alterations have from time to time been made, all which have more or less tended to widen the facilities and develop the resources of our postal system. No institution in the country, perhaps, has undergone so much revolution during the past century as has the Post Office, and when it is remembered what it was a hundred years ago, and what it is to-day; and when also we look back upon all the changes, greater and less, that have been made during that period, all tending to bring the Department up to its present state of perfection, then surely the British Post Office is one of which we may all well be justly proud.

A.G.D.

ARCHIBALD GRANGER BOWIE.





THE OLD BUILDING OF THE SWISS DIET WHERE THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION WAS FOUNDED.—1874.

[To face page 149.]

The Foundation and Development of the Universal Postal Union.

IN a recent number we published an article describing the proceedings which marked the celebration in July last of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the foundation of the Postal Union at Berne, and noted in passing the receipt of a copy of a work upon the birth and progress of the Union. The book is printed in excellent style, and is so replete with interesting information that we feel it merits more prominent notice than that already accorded to it. Its preparation was entrusted to a gentleman named Schröter, who is described by the Director of the International Bureau as a friend of the Union, and an admirer of that "great success." He compiled the work from official documents placed at his disposal by the Swiss authorities, and by the families of the two Directors of the International Bureau who have passed to their long rest, Messrs. Borel and Hohn.

The author opens with a review of international postal relations before the Conference of Paris which took place in 1863, and justly remarks that the history of the Post has always been allied with that of civilization. As man advances in the intellectual sphere, the Post keeps pace with him. If he relapses into barbarism, the Post correspondingly retrogrades. This is strikingly true. It is still quite fresh to our minds what a furore was created when, on a recent historic occasion, Lord Salisbury, ever noted for his acid pen and equally biting tongue, referred to a certain European country as decadent; and we cannot but remark that, if we may judge the value of his words by the condition of that country's postal arrangement, his estimate was a correct one.

At the head of all the improvements and developments which have taken place, the author puts the unification of the postage on inland letters and its reduction to one penny within the United Kingdom in 1840. This reform, as is known in all corners of the civilized world, was accomplished by Rowland Hill; and its inauguration also marked the birth of postage stamps as they exist at the present day. It is naturally a great satisfaction to us as Britishers to learn that the palm of postal progress is thus acknowledged by all nations to be due to

the British Post Office, and that our lead was gradually followed by all the important countries in the world.

International postal relations, however, long remained in a complex state. There were many units of weights in use; and the scale of progression was variable, as were also the charges. The latter were very high, and their calculation was a matter of great difficulty. A letter which had to be sent in transit through several countries was charged according to the different units and progressions of weight in vogue. Thus the postage on such a missive was ordinarily composed of the internal rate of the country of origin, the internal rate of that of destination, the rate of each transit country, and the charge for sea transit, where such means was employed.

As can be imagined, these high charges did not tend to the development of international postal traffic; and on this ground, and also because of the length of time necessarily occupied in dealing with each individual letter, the cry became general for an improvement. As public pressure had brought about the reduction and simplification of internal postage rates, it now forced the various Governments to endeavour to come to a similar decision regarding those of the international service.

The honour of first raising the question of the organization of international traffic on an improved basis was due to the Post Office of the United States. Postmaster-General Blair, in a note dated the 4th August, 1862, suggested a Conference of the delegates of different Postal Administrations for the purpose of discussing the matter. He called attention to the crying need for some immediate action, which he stated could only be taken by international concert. Fifteen Governments at once adopted the proposal; and the Conference took place at Paris on the 11th of May, 1863. Great Britain was represented by Mr. Frederick Hill and Mr. E. H. Rea.

The Conference lasted until the 8th of June, and discussed 36 questions, which arose in connexion with the three fundamental questions of the uniformity of weight, the uniformity of rates, and the simplification of accounting, including naturally an amelioration of the system of transit.

The deliberations ended in the adoption of thirty-one articles, or "*principes généraux de nature à faciliter les relations de peuple à peuple par la voie de la poste et pouvant servir de base aux conventions internationales destinées à régler ces relations.*" From a postal point of view, the delegates in effect represented nine-tenths of the commerce, and nineteen-twentieths of the correspondence of

the whole world. They represented, moreover, four hundred millions of persons belonging to the most civilized and the most industrious nations of the globe. The outcome of the labours of the delegates to the Paris Conference was the proposition for an International Postal Union. This project was published in 1868 in the official journal of the Postal Administration of Northern Germany by Herr von Stephan; and it was suggested by him that the proposal should be submitted to the deliberations of a Universal Congress. The Government of the North German confederation took the necessary diplomatic steps to this end in the following year; but the negotiations were interrupted by the outbreak of the Franco-German war. They were re-opened, however, after the declaration of peace. The Government of the Swiss Confederation undertook to invite the Governments of the countries of Europe, the United States and Egypt, to send representatives to a Congress to be held at Berne on the 1st of September, 1873, for the purpose of examining the German scheme. The invitation was accepted by every Government with the exception of that of Russia, which, although it favoured the project, found itself at the moment unable to send representatives to the Congress. In deference to the wishes of Russia, the Congress was adjourned until the following year.

The interval between the Conference of Paris and the meeting of the Congress of Berne was marked by the invention, by the indefatigable Herr von Stephan, of the post-card, or open letter sheet as it was then called. He laid his scheme before an assembly of representatives of the various German States at Carlsruhe in 1865; but it was not adopted on the ground that it would result in a too great diminution of revenue. The idea was, however, carried into effect in Austria on the 18th of October, 1869, with so great success that the North German administration followed suit on the 1st of July, 1870. Other Post Offices now adopted the scheme; and, at the time of the foundation of the Postal Union, the majority of the members admitted post-cards in their reciprocal postal relations. The prepayment of the cards was generally obligatory.

The Congress proposed by the German Government to examine the project for a Postal Union at last met at Berne on the 15th of September, 1874. The hero of the meeting was the author of the scheme, Herr von Stephan. He was perhaps the only man present who was at all equal to the task of carrying it to a successful issue. This was mainly due to the fact that he came fresh from

the perfection of a similar scheme among the numerous petty German States. His task in that connexion was easy, as compared with that of a Universal Postal Union ; for among the German States he had had to work with people using a common language, and with interests in common. The task he now set himself was an enormous one. To succeed, a scheme for a Postal Union had to conciliate the diverse opinions upon the *rôle* of the Post held in governmental circles ; and it was necessary to prove that the result would be of great general interest without entailing the sacrifice of the particular interest of any of the Administrations participating, and to make it clear that the sacrifices that it would be necessary to make would be more than compensated by the development of postal traffic. In a word, it was necessary that a scheme for a Postal Union should be large enough to make it possible for the greatest available number of Administrations to adhere to it, and, at the same time, be precise enough and practical enough to furnish at once serious results. Herr von Stephan absolutely comprehended this ; and his scheme succeeded. Thanks to his generalship, and to the conciliatory spirit of all the delegates, animated with the desire to bring to a successful conclusion a work of which the necessity came upon them daily, the deliberations of the Congress ended in the most happy result. On the 19th of October, after fourteen sittings, the Act constituting the Postal Union was signed. It was to come into force on the 1st of July, 1875.

The Congress of Berne attained its end. It secured the unity of rates ; that is to say, that, in future, each country was to charge a uniform rate for each category of correspondence addressed to the other contracting countries. It established that no charge of any kind was to be collected in the country of origin, or in that of destination, from the sender or the recipient of correspondence other than that prescribed in the Convention. It also founded such a logical classification of correspondence that it has not been found necessary to alter it to the present day. It also proclaimed the liberty of transit.

The representatives of Great Britain at the Berne Conference of 1874 were Mr. W. J. Page and Mr. Alan Maclean.

It was found necessary in 1876 to call another Conference at Berne in order to discuss the conditions of the entry of new countries into the Union. The necessity arose through the demand of India for admission to the Union, and this involved the desirability of coming to some conclusion respecting the cost of transit of

correspondence over long distances by sea. After long and laborious discussion, the matter was amicably settled ; and the entry of India into the Union was followed by numerous other over-sea countries and colonies. Mr. Maclean again represented this country at the Conference.

According to the terms of the Convention of Berne, a Congress of representatives of the various parties to the Union was to be held every three years for the purpose of discussing matters of common interest, and of introducing whatever improvements were judged to be necessary. The first reunion was appointed to take place at Paris in 1877 ; but it was subsequently adjourned until the following year. At the Congress, propositions were discussed for the introduction into the Postal Union scheme of a system of money orders, an exchange of insured articles, and of parcels. The latter project had been elaborated by Germany ; but, as the majority of the delegates had received no instructions from their respective Administrations enabling them to pronounce definitely upon it, the matter was referred back to the International Bureau in order that, after further studying, a special Conference might be called to discuss it.

A Conference in this connexion was ultimately held at Paris, in October, 1880, and representatives attended from all the countries of Europe (with the exception of Greece), and also from Canada, Egypt, India and Persia. After long discussion, a Convention was elaborated, and was accepted by nineteen Union Countries. Great Britain, however, did not become a party to it. The British representatives were Mr. S. A. Blackwood, Mr. A. Benthall and Mr. Buxton Forman.

The next Congress took place at Lisbon in 1885. Its sittings lasted from the 4th of February to the 21st of March, and, among many improvements in the postal service which were the results of its labours, figure the introduction of the " Express " distribution of correspondence, the admissibility through the post of articles of gold and silver, of precious stones, jewels and other precious articles in the relations between countries of which the legislation did not expressly forbid the transmission of such articles, and the use of private post-cards. A new question, that of organizing an international service of articles bearing trade charges payable on delivery, was introduced, and an arrangement was arrived at in this respect between several of the Administrations represented at the Congress.

The British delegates on this occasion were Mr. S. A. Blackwood and Mr. Buxton Forman ; and these gentlemen also represented the

United Kingdom and certain British Colonies at the succeeding Congress, which took place at Vienna, and lasted from the 20th of May to the 4th of July, 1891. Mr. L. A. Marshall and Mr. C. A. King also attended at Vienna, in the capacity of Secretaries to the British delegation.

One of the chief decisions of the Vienna Congress was the authorisation of the International Bureau to act as a Clearing House for the settlement of the accounts between the various Postal Administrations of the Union. The importance of this measure can be gauged from the fact that, in 1899, the amount liquidated through the Bureau was 53,043,003 francs 96 centimes. A proposition to establish a universal postage stamp was regarded by the Congress as premature, and, in voting against it, Herr von Stephan justly remarked that, before it could enter the bounds of possibility, a uniform system of currency would have to be introduced. The matter was accordingly dropped. Before the Congress adjourned it fixed upon Washington as the scene of the next Congress; and the end of the month of April, 1897, saw a procession across the Atlantic of the various delegates. Among them figured, on behalf of Great Britain and Colonies, Sir (then Mr.) Spencer Walpole, Mr. H. Buxton Forman and Mr. C. A. King, with Mr. A. B. Walkley as Secretary.

The Washington Congress is the last that the Postal Union has held during the first 25 years of its existence. The next Congress is to meet at Rome in 1904.

The Nineteenth Century has seen the accomplishment of many wonders. Steam and electricity have changed the face of the earth and transformed human life. In the realm of pacific reforms, however, no work has acquired such a development as that of the Postal Union. It is a great factor of civilisation. Each country affiliated to it is a country open to the great currents of ideas which animate modern society. Thanks to it, people learn to know, respect, and love each other better. It levels the rivalries of castes and of races. Its family is the entire human race; and its unique inspiration is the interest of all peoples. It alone affords the spectacle of periodical reunions where the delegates of all the nations of the world elaborate laws which are carried out on all the surface of the earth.

S.O.

R. W. HATSWELL.

The Post Office and the Volunteer Movement—II.

WHEN Major Cardin relinquished the command of C Company of the 12th Middlesex, he was succeeded by Captain J. Mitford, formerly Cashier of the General Post Office, who joined the regiment when it was formed and received his commission as Lieutenant in January 1872. He became Captain and Honorary Major in August 1890, and Major and Honorary Lieutenant Colonel in 1894. He was, perhaps, least at home in barrack-square evolutions, but fully alive to the fact that



LIEUTENANT-COLONEL J. MITFORD.

a man who could use a rifle well was a useful soldier. He took the deepest interest in shooting and was an enthusiastic shot. In 1874 he was one of the Queen's Sixty, when it was generally conceded by those present and most competent to judge, that he missed securing the highest shooting honours owing to the omission to record a hit on the target. In the final stage, his second shot was entered as a

"miss," a decision that created great surprise amongst those watching the targets. His remaining shots were all "bull's eyes," and Lieutenant Mitford's final score was only two behind the winner's total. In those days there was no appeal and the targets were of iron. He was one of the team which was successful in winning the Mappin Cup for the Civil Service Regiment.

The "Civil Service" have for many years been in the habit of shooting and *winning* more regimental rifle matches than any other London Volunteer Corps. The backbone of the regimental team has always included several members of the Post Office companies. The first match recorded was shot with the Snider



MAPPIN CUP WON BY THE 12TH MIDDLESEX.

rifle, and took place at Wimbledon in September 1880. The contest was with the London Scottish. Conditions: any position, seven shots at each range and no sighters. The match was particularly remarkable for the (in those days) phenomenal score made by Corporal Akhurst, of the Solicitor's Office of the Post Office. His score was 97, which had never been equalled on the Wimbledon ranges with the Snider. In this match Lieut. Mitford was last but three with a score of 69! It is interesting to record that the Service won this match by one point.

In the match with the London Rifle Brigade on the 6th June, 1890, the Service team was largely composed of Post Office men. The score was remarkable as being the highest ever recorded by a regimental team of twenty, in England, with the Martini. The Service total

was 1760, and that of the London Rifle Brigade 1727. In eleven years the regimental team shot sixty matches, of which eight were lost and fifty-two won. The team was undefeated in the years 1887, 1889, 1890, 1892, 1894 and 1897.

Among the many good shots for which the Post Office companies have been noted may be mentioned :—C. W. Potter, R. W. Newlyn (N.R.A. Queen's Sixty), W. W. Akhurst (N.R.A. Queen's Sixty, and Bronze Medal), F. E. Adams, H. Smith, C. T. Hillier, H. L. Bayley, J. E. T. Carew, E. Solomon, J. D. Pollard (N.R.A. Queen's



SERGEANT W. W. AKHURST.

Hundred), F. Rendell (N.R.A. Queen's Hundred), H. P. Anscombe, F. A. E. Williams, and L. Franzmann.

Of the early members of the corps Mr. F. E. Adams* was always keenly interested in shooting, and was one of the representatives of the regiment for the Queen's and St. George's Prizes in 1875. He was the honorary secretary of the Post Office Rifle Association.

Mr. W. Akhurst was a competitor at many important meetings and was generally well to the front. He was a well-known figure in

* A photograph of Mr. Adams appeared in our January number.

shooting circles and did yeoman service for the regiment in all its principal matches and competitions.

Mr. E. Solomon, of the Accountant General's Department, who recently resigned his membership of C Company, after twenty-seven years' service as a private, joined the corps in November 1872. Recognising that it should be the chief object of the individual soldier to become thoroughly efficient in the use of the weapon with which he is armed, he more frequently attended the ranges than the parade ground, and this, perhaps, explains why he never desired promotion. In 1875-6 he obtained a place in the regimental team, and from that time regularly represented the corps in the competitions for the Queen's and St. George's Prizes.



PRIVATE E. SOLOMON.

He was never fortunate enough to win the coveted badge of the final stage of the Queen's, but on several occasions his name has figured in the prize list, in addition to that of the St. George's, Alexandra, and other principal National Rifle Association competitions at Wimbledon and Bisley. Some of his best shooting took place when representing the Civil Service in contests with the London Scottish, H. A. C., London Rifle Brigade, and other well-known metropolitan volunteer corps. Private Solomon received the Long Service medal in 1895, from the hands of our present King, after completing 23 years' efficient service. It was a matter of gratification to his many friends, as it must have been to himself, that at his last appearance as an active member at the range, he contributed largely towards winning the match challenge-cup for the company, with a fine score of 94.

The finest shot in C Company is Armourer-Sergeant F. J. Rothon. Although not a member of the Department, he has done much good work in helping the younger members of the company to become more efficient in shooting, and a brief record of his performances may not, therefore, be considered out of place in this article. He joined the Volunteer Force in 1872, and has been a competitor at every meeting of the National Rifle Association since 1874, and has generally come well to the front. His success at the Middlesex Rifle Association meetings has been extraordinary. He has won seven of its championship badges, viz., four gold, two silver and one bronze. In 1896, in the competition at Bisley for the Prince of Wales's Prize, he tied with Major Pollock (G.M.), but was not successful when shooting off the tie. Nevertheless he won £60 for this shoot, and, in addition, secured several badges and prizes at the same meeting. Other badges won by Sergeant Rothon include two Queen's, three St. George's, ten successes for National challenge trophy, including top score in the 1891 match; United Service match, two Kolopore cups, top score for the mother country in 1892, West of Scotland Championship 1884, two N.R.A. bronze medals, and a number of china cup and N.R.A. grand aggregate badges. He has also secured the jewels of both North and South London Rifle Clubs.

Mr. F. Rendell, of the A.G.D., was a member of C Company from 1880 to 1893. He shot several times in the regimental team for the Queen's and St. George's Prizes, and in the battalion "eight" for the Middlesex Cup, obtaining his badge for the final stage of the Queen's Prize in 1887.

Corporal L. Franzmann, of the London Postal Service, who was one of the City Imperial Volunteers, is a member of C Company and one of its best shots. He joined the 24th Middlesex (Post Office Rifles) in 1891, and it is with that Corps that he is more particularly identified. In 1893 he secured the shooting prize given to his Company, and in the following year won the Cup presented for the best results in the battalion. He also won the Gold Championship Jewel of the combined Telegraph Companies. In 1896 he represented the 24th Middlesex in the Middlesex team, which defeated the regulars of the Home District, this being the first match in which Volunteers used the Lee-Metford. His greatest success was in 1899, when he won the General's Cup, in the *Daily Telegraph* Cup competition, when after marching eleven miles he scored a "highest possible" of 35 points (200 yards), followed by

one inner and six bull's eyes for tie shots—three other competitors having tied with his "highest possible" score and also his first tie shots. Corporal Franzmann just missed obtaining the coveted Queen's badge in 1899, when he finished 104th. In this year he was transferred to the 12th Middlesex, and has represented that regiment at many of the important meetings with considerable success.

C Company has not been so prominent in recent years, but there is plenty of good material, and signs are not lacking which augur well for the future shooting of the Company. Sergeant Godfrey, Sergeant Best, Corporal Darlison, and Privates Hatchard,



CORPORAL L. FRANZMANN.

J. N. Brown and White have exhibited very consistent form in many of the regimental competitions. In shooting and general efficiency the Company recently gave proof of a return to its old form by finishing just behind the sister company (B) for the Albemarle Cup, and winning the volley firing prize for company teams. C has done remarkably well in ambulance work. Sergeant Godfrey and Corporal Jeffery won badges in the Volunteer Medical Officer's Challenge Shield competition, the former being in the team which won the shield in 1894, and the latter in the team which was third in 1895 and second in 1896. Sergeant Godfrey, Corporal Jeffery, Lance-Corporal Reynolds, Privates Powell and Morgan have all won cups in the Volunteer Ambulance School of Instruction competitions. Privates Adamson and E. B. Luck are on active service as stretcher bearers with Carrington's Horse, and

Private Wheeler acted in similar capacity in C Company of the City Imperial Volunteers.

The present commander of C Company is Captain H. Duncan Lewis, of the Accountant General's Department. He joined the regiment in January, 1873, and after successively serving as private, corporal and sergeant, received a commission in May, 1890, and was appointed to his present rank in August, 1894. Under his command the Company has maintained its reputation for general efficiency and hard work. He has been well supported by Lieutenant C. H. Browne, who unfortunately has had to retire in consequence of ill-health. Mr. C. S. Manning, of the Accountant General's Department, has recently received a commission as



CAPTAIN H. DUNCAN LEWIS.

Second Lieutenant. He has been an active member of C Company for many years.

Captain R. B. Hughes, also of the Accountant General's Department, is a member of C Company, and is the Quartermaster of the regiment. He joined in 1874, and at once became a regular attendant at the range, obtaining considerable proficiency as a shot, and for several years he represented the regiment at the Wimbledon meeting. He was gazetted Second Lieutenant in 1891, and obtained his "P S" two years later. In 1895, "being a firm believer that it is nobler to prolong than to destroy life, he exchanged his position as a combatant officer for the less showy but more onerous one of Quartermaster, and presenting himself for a certificate at Chelsea Barracks, obtained full marks in the

examination." He wears the long service medal, and is the only Quartermaster in the British Army after whose name the letter "P" is coupled with "P S" in the Army List.

Mention has already been made of the good work of many of the non-commissioned officers. Others include Colour-Sergeant Cook, Sergeants Price, G. W. Turk and Mellish, of the Accountant General's Department. Colour-Sergeant Cook was assistant honorary secretary and treasurer for ten years, and at the



CAPTAIN R. B. HUGHES.

Company dinner in January last he was presented with a gold watch, subscribed for by the members of both companies of the Post Office, on his retirement after seventeen years' service. Sergeant Mellish accompanied the first detachment of the City Imperial Volunteers, and served as a private throughout the campaign. Last month he again volunteered for active service and is now a member of Paget's Horse. Privates Hatchard, Thomas, and Briggs have also seen active service with the City Imperial Volunteers. (See portrait group in January number.)

Mr. A. W. Prichard, of the Accountant General's Department,

and a recent member of C Company, was sergeant of the Cyclist Section of the Civil Service Volunteers. He assisted Major Lloyd, R.E., at Westminster Town Hall, in drawing up the Red Book on cyclists' drill which is now in use. He represented his company on the regimental council and bank committee. Together with Captains Lewis and Robinson and Sergeant Lilburn, he formed the present excellent brass band of the 12th Middlesex and received the thanks of the regiment. This band



SERGEANT A. W. PRICHARD.

is almost entirely recruited from the Post Office, and all the members are efficient as soldiers in addition to being capable musicians. Sergeant Prichard holds an Aldershot certificate for proficiency in field telegraphy, which, if required, would enable him to act as an assistant instructor in signalling in the army.

Naturally the majority of the Post Office members of the Prince of Wales's Own (12th Middlesex) belong to the Post Office Companies (B and C). There are, however, a few members included in the Inland Revenue Company (E). Mr. J. A. B. Drummond, of the Confidential Enquiry Branch, and an old member of C Company, was a popular officer of E Company

for several years. Lieutenant J. Compton, of the Confidential Enquiry Branch, also left C Company and became Second Lieutenant in E in April, 1893. He is an enthusiastic Volunteer, and is honorary secretary of the officers' mess. He passed first in his examination on "Tactics." Two other prominent members of E are Colour-Sergeant A. R. E. Brown, of the Accountant General's Department, and Sergeant Woolley, of the London Postal Service, who has since obtained a commission in the 24th Middlesex, and is at present on active service in South Africa. The latter is a splendid all-round athlete and has distinguished himself in numerous assaults-at-arms and at the Royal Military Tournament. Corporal Pitcairn, of the Accountant



LIEUTENANT J. COMPTON.

General's Department, is also a member of E Company, and has recently returned from active service with the City Imperial Volunteers.

It is desirable in this article to trace events in their chronological order, otherwise the 24th Middlesex (Post Office), being essentially a Departmental corps, would have received first attention in these pages.

For many years this regiment has been remarkable for its splendid equipment and almost absolute perfection of discipline, and has earned the highest encomiums from those most competent to judge. In the official history of the Post Office Volunteer Regiment its origin is described as being due to the Fenian scare of 1867. After the attack on Clerkenwell prison the majority of the employés of the



COLONEL DU PLAT TAYLOR.

[To face page 164.]

Post Office were sworn in as special constables for the City, to maintain law and order, and assist the City Police in the event of any further outbreak. They were formed in seven divisions, and made up of officers from the various Departments as follows:—

No. 1 Division ...	{ Secretary's Office. Receiver and Accountant-General's Office. Mail Office. Returned Letter Office.
No. 2 Division ...	... Money Order Office.
No. 3 Division ...	... Savings Bank Department.
No. 4 Division ...	... Inland Office.
No. 5 Division ...	... Foreign Office.
No. 6 Division ...	... East Central District Office.
No. 7 Division ...	... West Central District Office.

Each division was divided into sections of from 24 to 32 men, to which a leader and assistant-leader were allotted. This force was drilled and instructed under the supervision of Colonel Fraser, C.B., the City Police Commissioner. On January 17th, 1868, Major Du Plat Taylor organised this force of special constables for inspection at the Guildhall. Upwards of 1,600 were marched in and took up the positions assigned to them, with military precision, and were then inspected by the Duke of Montrose (Postmaster-General), attended by the Lord Mayor, Colonel Fraser, and Mr. Tilley, the Secretary to the Post Office. Several loyal speeches were made, and Major Taylor was congratulated on the excellence of his arrangements. When the peril of the Fenian rising passed away, and the special constables were no longer wanted, a great number of them—chiefly connected with the minor establishment of the Post Office—formally approached Major Du Plat Taylor, then a member of the Civil Service Rifles, and expressed a wish to be formed into a regiment of volunteers. This suggestion was quite in accord with Major Taylor's views, and he lent himself readily and heartily to the work of organising the regiment. He promptly issued a circular sketching out a scheme, and inviting members of the minor staff of the Post Office establishment to join. The Duke of Montrose, the Postmaster-General, gave his approval to the scheme, and early in February the War Office sanctioned the formation of a regiment to be called the 49th Middlesex, with an establishment of 1,000 men.

Much enthusiasm was shown when recruiting began, and in a few days upwards of 700 men were enrolled. The uniform was dark grey with scarlet facings, with the addition of silver lace for officers. In the following month, Major Du Plat Taylor was gazetted Lieutenant-Colonel of the regiment.

On February 19th, 1868, the first regimental order was issued, and the following officers were appointed :—

Mr. Cunynghame, Surveyor Metropolitan Postal District, to be Captain.

„ Salisbury, Postmaster E.C., District, „

„ Tuck, „ W.C. „ „

„ Arnall, Assistant-Superintendent Inland Office, „

„ John Philips, Secretary's Office, to be Lieutenant.

„ Lambert, „ „ „ „

„ W. Irvine, Receiver & Accountant-General's Office, to be Ensign.

The following appointments were also made, viz. :—Lieutenant-Colonel Steevens (H.P. unattached), late 88th Foot, Connaught Rangers, an officer who had served with much distinction in the Crimea, Adjutant; Mr. W. Dickson, of the Circulation Department, then a private in the London Rifle Brigade, Quartermaster; Sergeant-Major Rule, late 20th Foot, who had also served throughout the Crimean campaign, and besides all the Crimean medals had the distinction of wearing the Legion of Honour, Sergeant-Major.

The early drills took place in the grounds of the Charterhouse and the Sergeant-Major was assisted by several non-commissioned officers of the Guards. Such rapid progress was made in the training of the men that a Company of the regiment attended the Easter Monday Review at Portsmouth on April 13th, 1868, and their general smartness was specially noticed. In the meantime other officers were appointed, and on the 23rd May, when the Queen's birthday was celebrated, the regiment paraded in public for the first time at Somerset House, where there was an attendance of 581 of all ranks. The regiment took part in the Review held by the Queen at Windsor on the 20th June, 1868. The newspapers were very complimentary in their notices of the appearance of the 49th, and congratulated the instructors on the creditable manner in which the evolutions were performed.

About this time a meeting was held under the presidency of Sir J. Ferguson, M.P., with the idea of forming a second battalion from

the messenger staff of the West End Government Offices, but the project fell through owing to lack of support.

Sixteen members were selected for the competition for the Queen's Prize at Wimbledon, and Captain Arnall was included in the first sixty and obtained a badge and prize of £10.

During the absence of the commanding officer the regiment was often under the command of Captain Salisbury (father of the present Surveyor and Postmaster of Liverpool). Captain Salisbury was an



CAPTAIN SALISBURY.

original member of the Civil Service Regiment when it was raised in 1859, but retired some little time before the Post Office Corps was formed. On the formation of the 49th many of his men in the E.C. District offered to join and form a company if he would take command, and at the invitation of Major Taylor he did so.

On the 15th October, 1868, the first official inspection took place, when 762 out of a strength of 853 men were present. The inspecting officer was Colonel Wright of *Birkenhead* fame, and he congratulated the regiment on its fine appearance and *perfect uniformity of clothing and accoutrements*. In the short period of

eight months the following gratifying statement of the condition of the regiment was published :—

Company.	Full-Efficient.	Efficient.	Non-Efficient.	Recruits.	Total Strength.
Staff	7	5	2	—	14
A	110	22	4	—	136
B	131	10	1	—	142
C	102	12	2	2	118
D	91	—	—	—	91
E	119	23	1	7	150
F	65	9	1	3	78
G	62	22	2	6	92
Total ...	687	103	13	18	821

At the same time twelve members were reported to be entitled to wear badges as marksmen, Ensign Irvine heading the list with a total of 56, and the commanding officer fourth with a total of 27 points.

The commanding officer had every reason to compliment the corps on its handsome record at the close of its first year's existence, and during the next few years every effort was made to increase the efficiency of the regiment. Colonel Du Plat Taylor was possessed of more than ordinary military instinct. No detail, however small, was too insignificant for his attention, and consequently he had a thorough grip of his men. He was splendidly supported by capable officers, and, as a result, before the corps had been many years in existence, whenever it appeared in public it attracted the attention of the regular military officers and the press for its steadiness and smart appearance. Although the youngest Volunteer corps, it was better equipped than the majority of the old established regiments, and it was the first to provide its men with greatcoats. These were worn for the first time at the Easter Monday Review at Dover in 1869, when the operations were carried out in a terrific snowstorm. Colonel Taylor's men were conspicuous among all the Volunteers for possessing so necessary a protection on such a day. Some idea of the efficiency of the Post Office Rifles may be gathered from the remarks in *The Times* on the occasion of the second annual inspection :—

“ Every man was completely equipped with greatcoat, gaiters, &c., adjusted in a soldier-like manner, presenting such an appearance of

uniformity and complete equipment as can seldom be seen in Volunteer corps in any part of the country."

General Lindsey also said they were "marvellously well drilled and marvellously well commanded, the only fault, indeed, he could detect was that they had yet to learn how to hold their tongues." It may be here mentioned that this slight defect was quickly remedied, and at a later inspection the Duke of Cambridge was able to "compliment them on such steadiness and *silence in the ranks* as would do credit to a regiment of the Line."

In March, 1871, some slight modification was made in the uniform, blue facings being substituted for red, and black braid for silver lace. It was in this year that the system of examination of Volunteer and Militia officers in drill was introduced, and in April seventeen members of the regiment obtained certificates of proficiency and earned the additional capitation grant. Out of a strength of 769 only one non-efficient (the Honorary Chaplain) was reported in 1871. It had been necessary, however, to call urgent attention to the delay in the completion of efficiency in firing, no less than 508 members failing to commence their class firing until after the 7th October. Colonel Du Plat Taylor adopted drastic measures with regard to non-efficients. Members who failed to fulfil the requirements were either removed from the roll altogether or transferred to the honorary list. This course was not followed in 1873, with the result that 65 non-efficients were reported, a number that was reduced to 17 in the following year, and "nil" in 1883. In 1874 the corps lost the services of Lieutenant Anson, who died of fever in Central Africa. He had volunteered to serve under Colonel Gordon, R.E., in an expedition for the suppression of the slave trade.

In 1876 the late Duke of Teck became the Honorary Colonel of the regiment, and with the Duchess of Teck often attended the corps functions.

Early in 1877 a new company was raised, composed exclusively of the Post Office employés of the Eastern District. Mr. W. J. W. Read, the Superintendent of the postal district, took command.

At Wimbledon the regiment distinguished itself by winning the first prize, value £13 13s., in the competition for bayonet exercise, and also the first prize, value £6, for tent pitching.

In 1878 six members competed for the Queen's Prize at Wimbledon, where the shooting of the regiment was more satisfactory than in previous years. In the first stage of the Queen's, Private Bennett won £3. In the St. George's competition Private Anscombe won

£6. and a badge. The first prize in the Bayonet Exercise Competition was again won by the representatives of the 49th. The badge with three stars was this year obtained by Private Bennett with a total of 165 in the three classes.

A large detachment of the regiment paraded on the 4th September at Westminster Abbey on the occasion of the burial of Sir Rowland Hill, who was formerly Secretary to the Post Office.

At the Easter Monday Review at Brighton in 1880, Major-General Higginson specially complimented the regiment on the efficiency and utility of its flag signallers.

The most brilliant function connected with the corps took place in this year at the Guildhall. General Higginson inspected it in the afternoon, and subsequently the Lord Mayor entertained the Duke and Duchess of Teck and many distinguished military officers at dinner, and afterwards presided over the prize distribution, a ceremony which was performed by Her Royal Highness the Princess Mary.

In September, 1880, the regiments of Middlesex Volunteers were re-numbered, and under the new arrangement the Post Office Corps became the 24th.

During the camp of exercise at Aldershot, in 1881, the regiment was honoured by a visit from their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Connaught, Princess Frederica of Hanover, and the Duchess of Teck, who witnessed performances of the bayonet exercise by the battalion, and afterwards took tea in the officers' mess. The Duke of Connaught and Baron von Pawel Rammingen subsequently dined with the officers of the regiment.

It was in 1882 that the Post Office Rifles made history of which it has every reason to look back with pride. Five years previously Colonel Du Plat Taylor had suggested to the Government the desirability of forming a company to undertake postal duties in connection with any military force which might be despatched from this country. His idea was not taken up at the time, but after the bombardment of Alexandria the suggestion was again put forward, and Colonel Taylor was authorised to select a body of 100 men and two officers to be enlisted in the Army Reserve. The officers and 50 men were at once called upon to accompany the army being despatched to Egypt. A detailed account of the doings of the Army Post Office Corps has been given in Major Ogilvie's interesting article, "Our Comrades in South Africa," and also in Mr. A. G. Ferard's description of the Army Post Office (see *St. Martin's-le-Grand* for January and July, 1900).

That the Army authorities were fully satisfied with the work of the Post Office Corps in Egypt is shown by the following extract from a despatch from Sir Garnet Wolseley, who commanded the expeditionary force :—

“The formation of a purely military postal department has been tried for the first time in this war. It has been very successfully directed by Major G. C. Sturgeon,* 24th Middlesex Rifle Volunteers.”

In a subsequent memorandum, Sir Garnet Wolseley wrote :—

“I have much pleasure in bringing to the notice of the Secretary of State the admirable manner in which the Post Office Corps discharged their duties in Egypt. Their discipline was excellent, and the officers, non-commissioned officers and men carried out the important duties entrusted to them in a manner which left nothing to be desired. Their services have been so valuable that I hope a similar corps may be employed on any future occasion on which it may be necessary to despatch an expeditionary force from this country.”

How much the Government appreciated this recommendation is evidenced by the large number of Post Office officials employed in the present campaign. Certainly, it is not the least remarkable event connected with the Department's history, that at the present time no inconsiderable portion of its staff is carrying on Postal business *under fire* at one of the Empire's distant extremities.

(To be continued.)

ERNEST A. MAY.

A.G.D., G.P.O.

NOTE.—The writer will be glad to receive notes of special performances by Provincial and other Volunteers in the Post Office.

*Present Postmaster of Norwich.

“*The Increasing Purpose.*”

IT may happen, sometimes, to one who seldom reads novels, that special circumstances may bring one to his notice. Then, if the novel be good, if it fulfil the main requirement of being true to life, if it faithfully represent the conflicts, the emotions, the thoughts, the imaginings of living characters, then the man is grateful for the influence which has thrown such a book into his hands. It may be that having little time for reading, and remembering Ruskin's dictum, “Do you know, if you read this, that you cannot read that?” he has, for the most part, chosen solid works which supply him with serious consideration of the problems that trouble his mind.

The effect of a good novel upon such a man as this, if he be susceptible to all true influences, is often that he now finds a practical application, it may be sometimes a practical solution, of some of the problems with which he has been grappling.

No one, therefore, who interests himself in the struggles, the sorrows, and the joys of his fellows need grudge the time spent with such a book as *The Increasing Purpose*, by J. L. Allen.

It is not intended to consider here the literary or the artistic merits of the book, but solely the main *motif*—the old struggle of faith and doubt, illuminated finally by love.

The subject seems a little behind the times, if such an opinion may be advanced without presumption by one who has had but limited experience, and who ventures to suggest that the ultimate battle ground for religion will be faith and *practice*. There will be more combatants in this final struggle than in the intellectual one of faith and doubt; and the Christian religion will finally triumph, as its adherents believe, by virtue of its power to satisfy the growing demand for purity in all practical matters.

This, however, is another question, and we must return to the subject in hand. The battle of faith and doubt is fought out in the person of one—David, and the sympathetic reader cannot fail to be attracted by his strong, rugged personality, from the days of his child-like faith, through the time of his doubt and bewilderment, until the day when, despite the cold intellectual creed which he has beaten out for himself, he is forced to declare “it is love that makes a man believe in a God of Love.”

His youth was a solitary one. Alone, for the most part, in his work in the fields, with no other books save nature and the Bible, this boy, uncouth, misunderstood, builds up for himself, in silent, deep devotion, in child-like faith, his childish religion.

Then there comes a time when he first asserts himself and first gains for himself the respect of his parents. A travelling preacher, in the pulpit of the chapel where all sects are invited, announces the founding of a college for Bible preachers, and appeals for labourers in God's field. Then the lad feels his call has come; it is for this his life has been waiting. He must obey.

But obedience must be in will only at first, and he must work patiently, toilsomely, for two years longer in the fields, amidst the hemp. Then the day comes when, with his parent's blessing, the rough country lad sets out, carpet-bag in hand, for that goal of his aspirations—the Bible college. The first trial that awaits him is the scorn of companions; but a harder one follows, the trial of his faith.

The preacher in his college chapel commences a course of lectures dealing with the errors of the different sects; and David goes regularly to visit the different churches where these sects assemble to “number the slain.” He finds, however, that in these places also the war of the sects is being waged and he grows bewildered. He becomes an object of suspicion to his fellow students and to his teachers, by whom he is kindly warned. But there is no turning back, he must pursue his investigations, and they lead him to the conclusion that he can never become a preacher.

The passage which describes his discovery of this fact is impressive. He has sought an interview with his professor, and after some preliminary enquiries he begins:—

“‘Is it Apostolic Christianity to declare that infants should not be baptized?’

“‘It is!’ The reply came like a flash of lightning.

“‘And those who teach to the contrary violate the word of God?’

“‘They do!’

“‘Is it Apostolic Christianity to affirm that only immersion is Christian baptism?’

“‘It is!’

“‘And those who use any other form violate the word of God?’

“‘They do!’

“‘Is it Apostolic Christianity to celebrate the Lord's Supper once every seven days?’

"'It is!'

"'And all who observe a different custom violate the word of God?'

"'They do!'

And so on, the questions becoming faltering until they stopped altogether, and in answer to his teacher's demand—

"'Ask some more. The last of them! Out with them *all*! Make an end of this now and here'—

"The lad reached for his hat, which he had laid on the floor, and stood up. He was as pale as the dead.

"'I shall never be able to preach Apostolic Christianity,' he said, and turned to the door.

"But reaching it, he wheeled and turned back.

"'I am in trouble,' he cried, sitting down again. 'I don't know what to believe. My God!' he cried again, burying his face in his hands. 'I believe I am beginning to doubt the Bible—Great God! what am I coming to? What is my life coming to? *Me* doubt the Bible!'

So, he loses his childish religion, and, with it, his childlike trust, whirled away in bewilderment amidst the war of the sects.

He stays on some time at the college, though it is no longer the place for him, and his real studies are in another direction. From the chapel pulpit he has heard certain modern teachers denounced—the scientific teachers of the day; and immediately he commences to study their writings. Here, in the study of nature and the laws which determine its operations, in the immensity of the truths of the physical universe, he finds firm ground whereon to rest in his fall from his early faith.

The consequence is inevitable. He is expelled from his community, with no convictions concerning his former beliefs, save that his judges have no right to judge him. So he returns to his home, where his parents, changed from their early belief in his incapacity, have been living on the reports of his college successes (for he has had outward successes), and on the expectation of the time when they shall proudly sit under his preaching. For this end they have been stinting themselves more and more, and when he returns to them in their poverty, with the sudden announcement of his expulsion and his departure from the faith of his childhood, the scene is tragic. "Why have you come back here"? and, "I always knew there was nothing in you." These are the bitter and scornful exclamations of his father.

He stays on at home, however, filled with remorse at all the privations his parents have had to suffer, and the prospect of ruin, working hard upon the farm and bearing patiently the taunts thrown at him. But there is no remorse—there cannot be—at his own change of thought, and the nights see him still pursuing his studies amidst the discomforts of his attic.

So he would probably have continued, becoming more and more engrossed in science, and finding in it the only safety, the only joy of life. But a new influence comes into his life, the strongest personal influence he has known.

This is Gabriella, a sweet flower, budding in the sunny clime of prosperity, and breaking into blossom after the storms of the Civil War; blossoming all the more sweetly for the storms which have gone over her. Reared in luxury, she is now forced to earn her bread as a village teacher, and it is thus that she becomes acquainted with David. The first time they met was in the streets of Lexington, and David has not forgotten. It was the day of his excommunication, and when, in consequence of a trivial incident, she smiled upon him from church steps, that gleam of sunlight was treasured—it lightened the darkness of his life. But Gabriella has forgotten, and thinks that she sees him for the first time on a day when she visits him in the midst of his rough farm labour. She has been for some time schoolmistress of the village where his home is, and has heard his story, in the days both of his fame and his disgrace, both of which have attracted her. She feels the need of something more in her life than the rough kindness of simple folk around her, and David's personality stands out distinguished from the ordinary lives of the place.

They become friends, and he visits her regularly in a charmingly unconventional manner. Of course, they fall in love with each other. But it is long before he tells her the story of his doubts. She has kept *her* faith, kept it brightly through all her troubles, and he fears the result of his revelation of himself upon this one being who sympathises with him. But it comes out at last, and at her request he summarises for her the main teachings which he has studied and made his own. He does it with some dread as to the result, but she shows no signs of being shocked. On the contrary, she wishes to know more of this new teaching, which has such wonders to disclose concerning the vast universe and the comparatively small place which man and his earth hold with regard to it; such wonders, too, concerning the development of life and of man

upon the earth. Once, and only once, she is moved to exclamation of disapproval. It is when David tells her of the book which, dealing with the religions of the world in the same scientific method as with physical facts, treats Christianity merely as one of the many forms of man's successive beliefs. She discerns immediately this weak spot, this scientific handling of that part of nature which can never be satisfactorily settled by ordinary scientific methods—the Spiritual in man. David explains his present religious standpoint by declaring his belief in a God of Law, guiding His universe in its development by law, revealing Himself in the development of man along the paths of law.

This disclosure does not shock Gabriella. She refuses to believe in his rejection of the fundamentals of the Christian religion, refuses also to judge him, and the deep confidence he has placed in her, by revealing his inmost thoughts, has but drawn them nearer together. So friendship has to take on the warmer colouring of love.

So it is with them when David falls ill. Gabriella nurses him through the illness, and he recovers, his life more than ever hers, now. The last scene in the book is one in which David and Gabriella meet, on his first venturing forth again, and discuss the future. He has arranged business at home, and means to start, penniless, to work his way in the field of physical science. Gabriella will not hear of separation—she has a little money. She gains her will, and the last passage is one of love. Gabriella has been feeling that all through life David will be separated from her by his search for the cold spirit of wisdom. But David says, "Ah, Gabriella, it is love that makes a man believe in a God of Love."

So we may leave him; for, unsatisfactory as the ending is for those who would like to know his fuller development under this God of Love who has come after his God of Law, we may surely think that fuller communion, under the law of love, with her whom he loves, will reveal to him mysteries in the development of man which cold scientific study would never have shown him, mysteries which should lead him once more to a belief in a Divine Humanity, obscured to him by traditions of men.

There are one or two matters which cannot be left untouched by comment.

In the scene of David's trial, previous to expulsion from the Bible college, the question is asked, "Do you not even believe in God?" and the author comments—"Ah; that question . . . which exacts of the finite to affirm whether it apprehends the Infinite, that

prodding of the evening midge for its opinion of the polar star." Surely the question is not so exacting; it does but ask the finite whether it *believes*, not whether it apprehends, the Infinite—the midge whether it *believes in*, not as to its opinion of, the polar star. And we do not believe such kind-hearted men as this body of theologians, with all their narrowness, would have expelled David on the strength of his answer to this question alone.

Again—the author says: "An assemblage of men have a perfect right to turn a man out of their church on theological grounds, but they have no right to do it in the name of God. With as much propriety a man might be expelled from a political party in the name of God." The cases are not parallel. Political parties leave God entirely out of their calculations, therefore they have no right to expel a man in the name of One whom they, as a party, ignore. But the very business of theologians *is* God. A narrow-minded body of men certainly have no right to use the Name in expelling one who cannot be cramped within their narrow doctrines, though, if they sincerely think they can, they are, perhaps, free from moral responsibility. But it is, at least, open to debate whether *no* body of men could *ever* expel a man in God's name by reason of *any* opinion continuously persisted in—such expulsion not, of course, putting him beyond the pale of humanity.

The author, speaking by the mouth of David, in many places, and for himself, sets small value on theology; and Gabriella, also, is very disdainful of it. David says once, "The time is coming when the churches will be deserted by all thinking men, unless they cease trying to uphold, as the teachings of God, mere creeds of their ecclesiastical founders." And Gabriella says: "There is not a dogma of my church that I have ever thought of for a moment, or of any other church." And the author approves of this, as showing that "religion, not theology, forms the spiritual life of a woman."

Of David's remark we would say that there is no danger, ultimately, that churches will be deserted by thinking men, on account of their creeds, so long as those creeds are real embodiments of truth, and not mere baseless opinions of founders.

As to Gabriella, we find, in spite of her assertion, that she has very definite belief in God—a Father, the inspiration of the Bible, the resurrection of the dead, the immortality of the soul, the answer to prayer. Are not these theological doctrines? She has not had any intellectual struggles in attaining them certainly; "I am a woman and these questions never trouble us," she says.

But she does not speak here for all women, at any rate not for all modern women. There are many who, now they have freedom in these intellectual fields of theology, *do* have trouble.

And of theology itself, what shall be said?

Theology, as we know it in this imperfect stage, is, thank God, not the same as religion. And there are many pure spirits whom we meet and love as truly religious, whom we can hope to meet and love more nearly on clearer heights, yet with whom, intellectually, we are not in accord here; and some, may be, have had no opportunity to develop their mind, and for them instinct may have taken the place of intellect. But theology *is* part of religion for *thinking* men and women, who believe in religion as something which demands the whole of them, heart first with many, but mind also. And if scientists will only grant that there is a part of man which they cannot dissect—his spiritual nature—we would tell them that if the mind is exercised in the Spirit, there may come an illumination which reveals truths otherwise hidden. Viewed in this aspect, theology should be the noblest science, not perfect—the other sciences are not—for imperfection is mixed with all things human, yet, like them, going on to know. And truly, with many

"Slow Reason lags behind, while Love doth lead;

Till Love, in pity, turns Him back from fields all bright
To fire cold Reason and to urge him on

To Love's own realm of glad and glorious Light."

P.O.B., A.G.D.

M. FILSELL.



AN OFFICIAL CARD OF GREETING FROM CARLSBAD.

The Post Office Militant.

FOLLOWING upon the second invasion of the Cape Colony by the Boers and the appearance of commandos within seventy miles of the metropolis, martial law has been put into force in every district with the exception of the Cape, Simonstown, Wynberg, Port Elizabeth, East London, and the territories of the Transkei, Tembuland, Griqualand East, and Pondoland. In the districts of the Cape, Wynberg, and Simonstown, however, the provisions of the Peace Preservation Act of 1878 have been strictly enforced, whereby it is not lawful for any person, except a resident magistrate, justice of the peace, field-cornet, or person serving in His Majesty's naval or military forces, or actually enrolled in any colonial corps for the time being, whether burgher or volunteer, or in any armed police force legally constituted within the Cape Colony, to bear, carry, or have in his or her possession, custody or power, any gun, pistol, sword, bayonet, dagger, pike, spear or assegai, or any bullets, cartridges, gunpowder, or any material capable of being used in the explosion of guns and pistols, unless such person shall be duly licensed under the said Act so to do.

Town Guards, composed of the civilian population, have been formed in the various business centres throughout the Colony, and so loyally has the call to arms been responded to by old and young, rich and poor, that a fine body of over nine thousand men has been brought together in Cape Town alone, to be instructed in military duties with a view to repelling the invaders should they show themselves in the Cape Peninsula.

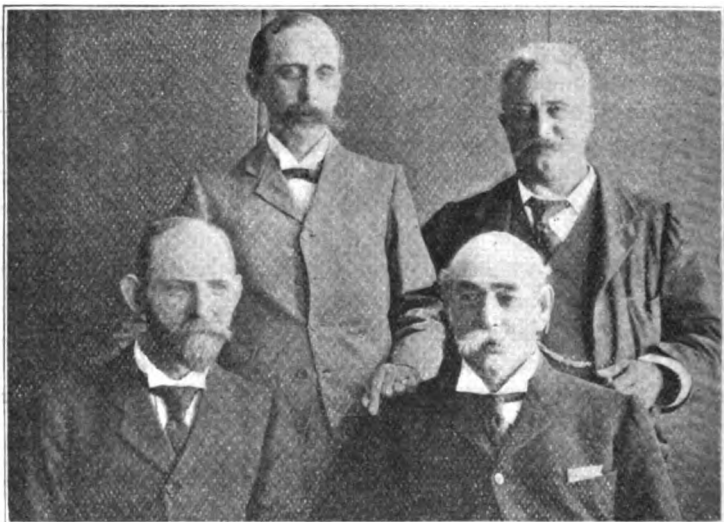
The formation of such a large and representative body of citizen soldiers has considerably strengthened the hands of the military authorities, who have thereby been enabled to send a large proportion of the Cape Town garrison to the districts where irregular bodies of the enemy are laying waste the land and terrorising the loyal inhabitants—leaving but a small complement of regulars and the enrolled citizen guards to protect the metropolis itself.

The Cape Civil Service as a whole, although composed of Dutch and English probably in the proportion of two to one, has practically volunteered to a man, and prominent amongst the several departments appears the Post Office, which has furnished no less

than five hundred men from its various Cape Town branches. It is a significant fact that nearly one-third of the Postal Telegraph staff have in some period of their career passed through Volunteer corps, either in the Old Country or in the Colony.

As *St. Martin's-le-Grand* is essentially a postal publication, it will be understood why, from this point forward, I refer solely to the Post Office connection with the movement.

The men cannot all be on parade at the same time by reason of



CAPT. J. TASKER
(Controller, C.T.O.).

CAPT. B. BAYLY
(Surveyor, Met. Dist.).

CAPT. J. WILSON
(Chief Clerk, S.O.).

CAPT. J. C. CARSTENS
(Controller, C.B.).

the nature of their official duties, and have therefore been divided up into four companies as follow:—

- A. Secretary's Office—Capt. Jer. Wilson (Chief Clerk).
- B. Central Telegraph Office—Capt. J. Tasker (Controller).
- C. Circulation Branch—Capt. J. C. Carstens (Controller).
- D. Engineering Staff—Capt. Brackenbury Bayly
(Surveyor, Met. Dist.).

Attached to B Company are the members of the Eastern Telegraph Company, with their respected Superintendent, Mr. G. B. Stacey, as Lieutenant.

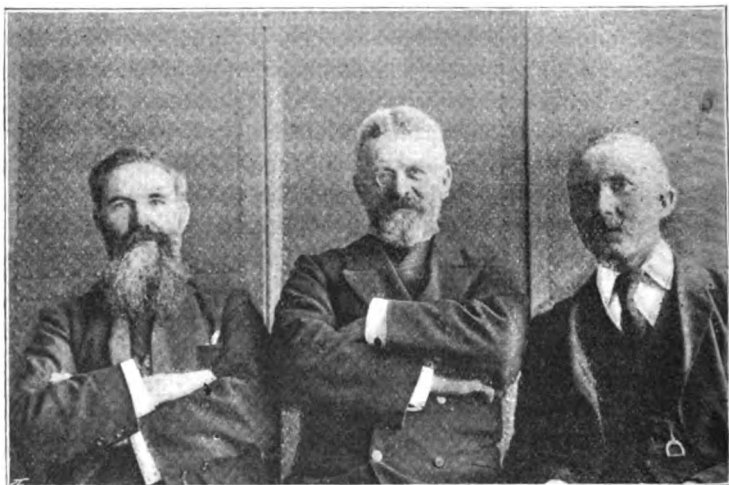
No distinctive uniform has as yet been adopted, but a standard pattern of smasher hat has been gone in for generally, and on parade the resulting effect suggests the average picture descriptive of the commandeering of burghers beyond the Vaal. The martial spirit has so strongly developed in some of the men that they have gone in for hang-me-down suits of khaki, whilst others have bedecked themselves in crash suits with irreproachable putties. Each man wears a blue, yellow, and red arm badge with the letters G.P.O. in the centre, and a number of the keenest have shed their brown and patent leather shoes for hobnailed ammunition boots – an outward and visible sign from their point of view that they are not playing at soldiers.

A room in the G.P.O. building has been set aside as an armoury, and this is guarded day and night by a corporal and three men. The four companies supply men in turn for this duty, and the work as arranged for comes around to each individual so rarely that it is really no hardship. The allowance per man on guard duty is five shillings a day plus half-a-crown in lieu of rations, and for attending not less than two drills in the week each unit in the regiment receives five shillings.

In the ranks the *esprit de corps* is very remarkable. Surveyors, bearded controllers of departments, accountant and principal clerks line up side by side with junior officials, and cheerfully obey the words of command given by their own subordinates who occupy the superior positions of non-commissioned officers. In the Railway Department, which is also a branch of the Civil Service, the chief traffic manager and the financial secretary are each full privates, and fall in with porters, shunters, engine drivers and firemen. Truly enthusiastic volunteering results in a great sweeping aside of social and official positions!

By the law of reverse the Assistant Secretary of the Post Office is lieutenant in the chief clerk's company, and notwithstanding his heavy duties just now, the Postmaster-General being in England, he finds time to attend almost all the drills and route marches, which average no less than six a week. The Secretary, Mr. Ben Duff, who is at present Acting Postmaster-General, is commanding officer of the Cape Town Highlander regiment, and, as such, is debarred from taking over the control of the Post Office corps; yet to his untiring energy and keenness is attributable in no small degree the success which has attended its formation. The Chief Engineer, Mr. J. P. Edwards, also holds a commission in the local

Highlanders, and in the midst of his multifarious duties takes great interest in the Guard movement. At a recent full parade before the Commandant, Colonel Cooper, he acted as adjutant to the Post Office section. The Assistant Engineer, Mr. W. Standford, is a major in the same kilted corps, and since the commencement of the Boer war has been and is still acting as assistant commandant of volunteers to Lieutenant-Colonel R. G. Southey of the Colonial Defence Department. His absence from the P.O. Guard is much regretted.



PTE. HERRING
(*Controller of Stores*).

PTE. HÖHNE
(*Controller,
Savings Bank*).

PTE. NAYLOR
(*Controller,
M.O.B.*).

Each week-day afternoon, shortly after four, the measured tramp of marching men can be heard on the Grand Parade at the rear of the G.P.O. buildings, and the raucous voices of the drill instructors pierce the ears of the squads and interested spectators as the various movements are being gone through. The utmost good humour prevails, and when studious men and proved smart officials show in their anxiety to learn that they can at any rate mistake their right feet for the left occasionally, they come in for an abundance of well-merited chaff from their more enlightened *confrères*. The drills are usually held in the scorching sun, for from November to March the Cape summer is in full swing, and after a hard day's work the hour's exercise is occasionally trying. The Grand Parade, which is used

as the drill-ground, is extremely sandy, and great thirsts are developed in consequence of the clouds of dust which are set in motion and blow from squad to squad. The welcome command "Stand at Ease—Stand Easy" is given at stated intervals, and the rank and file employ the few minutes' breathing space in discussing how long hocks and soda with big lumps of ice in them would meet their pressing needs. A canny Scot in No. 1 Company takes a keen delight in dissipating the beauty of the suggestion by enquiring how a hot plate of porridge would do as an alternative.

The serving out of Lee-Metford rifles to the squads was a big event, and the men of short proportions, who usually line up in the rear rank, went to their daily toil with worried looks and gloomy forebodings as to the future. With two or three drills, however, the companies became expert in the handling of these instruments of warfare, and took on quite a martial bearing.

The Head Office messengers derive a good deal of amusement by attending the drills as interested spectators, and one of them, who appears to have grasped the humorous as well as the serious side of the movement, has given vent to his thoughts in verse :—

THE P.O. GUARD.

(With apologies to H.M.A.C.)

The foe is marching on Cape Town,
The Boer is on the veldt.
Go, shout the tidings up and down,
And buckle on the belt!

Come out, ye loyal men and true,
Come out the foe to meet;
Much unaccustomed work to do,
Patrolling of the street!

A motley crew, yet brave as queer,
They came at duty's call.
Each felt a soldier's death was near,
Yet came they one and all,

The lame, the halt, the maimed, the blind,
Long, short, broad, fat, and lean;
Not one of them was left behind—
Such sight was never seen.

Then marched they up, then marched they down,
And dreamed of war's alarms.
"Eyes right!"—"That's left, you silly clown!"
"Attention!" "Shoulder arms!"

The perspiration poured like rain,
Down many a purple face;
But not a man did once complain,
They only feared disgrace.

And many a one, while much athirst,
Despairingly did think
(As sighs his tunic almost burst)
Of something cool to drink.

And when at last their drill is done,
Straight for a drink they go;
Right glad to leave the scorching sun,
For spheres where liquids flow.

Then let us all go seek one too,
Their right good health to drink,
Who came at duty's call to do
That from which most would shrink.

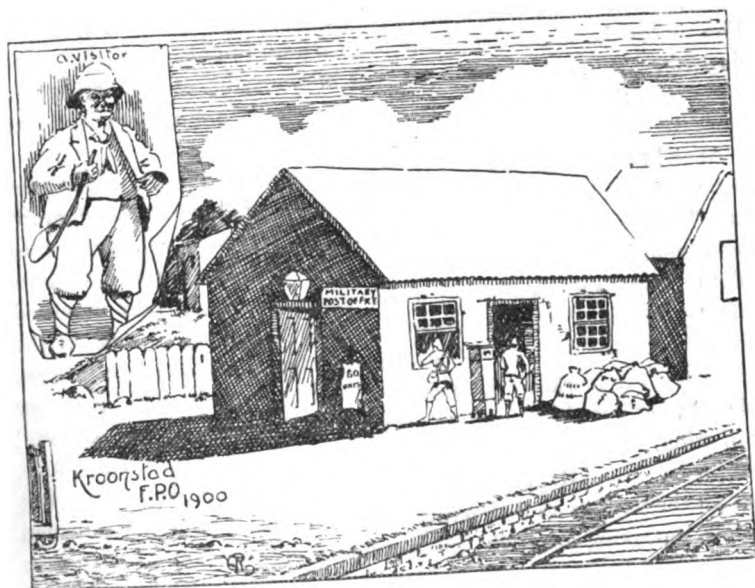
When the Transvaal War has been brought to a satisfactory termination, and peace is restored throughout South Africa, no doubt the Guards thus raised in the hour of need will form the nucleus of new volunteer regiments in the larger towns of the Colony. In a United South Africa, stretching from the Zambesi to Table Bay, there will be ample scope for such additional corps, having in view the fact that the Sons of the Empire throughout the world will be looked to in future to take a real share in maintaining the supremacy of the British flag. In Cape Town the formation of a Civil Service regiment of volunteers would be very popular; and when the present troublous times have given place to a period of peace and attendant prosperity, the matter will in all probability be brought forward for serious consideration.

G.P.O., Cape Town.

E. E. HARRY.

The Field Post Office at Kroonstad.

OUR Office is just a corrugated iron shed, a duplicate of the average house found in South Africa, as primitive as may be. One of its two windows, when opened, forms the public counter, and through this aperture much business is transacted. The interior of this tin shanty is divided into two compartments of different size; the smaller one is lighted by the "counter" window, and is also the room where registered letters are dealt with. Round the sides of the larger room



shelves have been placed for sorting purposes; bare shelves and no other conveniences, for a man out here has to use his own wits to make things adapt themselves to his requirements. He cannot call in carpenters and workmen: indeed the veldt itself has often been the only facing, sorting and dispatching table obtainable for a Field Post Office.

A month or two ago the staff had not only to do the office work, but also to eat and sleep in the two dingy rooms of this shed. Fortunately it was then winter, and the health of the men did not suffer. The conditions have since greatly altered for the better.

The station premises are now used for business purposes only, and by arrangement with the authorities the A.P.O.C. are allowed to make use of the Salvation Army Barracks, or rather meeting house, which place, being one of the cleanest halls in Kroonstad, forms the most healthy of quarters, and has gone far to keep a clean bill of health amongst the staff. After the office on the station is closed for the day, the men adjourn to the meeting house, have tea, and, if cricket proves irksome, pass the evening with cards, chess, or such like indoor relaxations. At about 10 p.m. blankets are spread on the floor preparatory to sleep, and soon after all is oblivion.

Rising at 6.30 a.m., the colour-sergeant in charge generally has the men out for a bathing parade in the Vaalsche (pronounced False) River, distant some fifteen minutes' walk through the Kaffir location. The water is somewhat uninviting, being muddy, and the river sluggish. Still, in time, one gets out of the habit of comparing the water with the clear lakes at home, and when the mind reaches that stage the swim is real enjoyment.

At eight o'clock the staff, headed by the colour-sergeant, march over to the office on the station, and start work probably on the "return bags" of undelivered correspondence, one of which will sometimes keep them busy for an entire day. It is pitiful to look at the contents of the bags returned (say) from some of the various mounted infantry corps. The envelopes are torn and dirty; some of the letters have lost their covering, thus making the delivery hopeless; not a few are marked "In Hospital" (but no designation, which or where); others have written across them, "Killed in Action," "Missing," "Gone Home"; whilst many simply read "Not—— Corps, try —— Regiment," and so on as the case may be. But not all the work is so distracting as the turning out of a "returned bag." Speaking generally, the conditions of work are so free from constraint that the day passes pleasantly enough. With tunics off, shirt sleeves up, and an occasional pipe, the fellows work—aye! and work well—having a particular portion to finish before the day closes. In a field post office one can have the satisfaction of seeing the results of one's labour; for on an average day, provided that nothing exceptional comes in, by grinding steadily, a man can get all correspondence in the bags ready for dispatch by the first train north or south.

It is part of the duty of an A.P.O.C. man to ascertain the movements of troops; and it is astonishing how interesting, even as a matter of official business, the passing of troops through the

town becomes. Most of the callers are representatives of different regiments; and one may hear from them what fighting has been going on. Many an interesting tale of the veldt is told in the dingy field post office on Kroonstad Station whilst the staff work and listen.

The visitors to the field post office are a motley crowd, not by any means all soldiers. See this abnormally stout old party just entering the door. He has already called three times to-day. He is dressed in a semi-military style, with huge helmet and tunic open; he is red in the face merely with the effort of walking. "Have you," he asks, "anything yet for me?" He is expecting a letter from his wife; he is not sure that she has written, but is certain that such a wife as he has would have written by this time. "Are we *quite* certain we know his name?" and so on. He is a conductor in charge of some hundreds of "boys" (niggers).

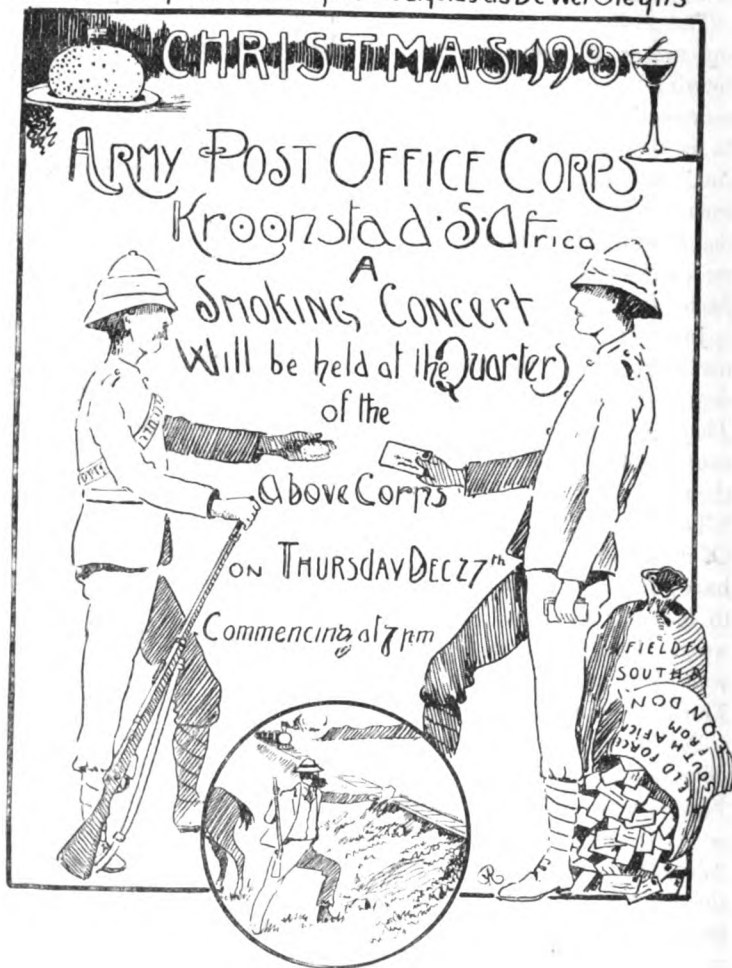
Just as we may be extra busy getting bags ready for the incoming mail train, two of the neatly dressed nursing sisters look in. "Oh dear," one will say, "let us come again, look how busy they are!" They hesitate, hoping to catch the eye of the sergeant, but do not succeed; they walk away two or three steps, return to the door, and then one of them boldly enters, smiles, and says *very* sweetly, "There, I shall have to come again when you have less work!" Of course the smile has done its work. Wiping the sweat from his brow, one of the men will ask the sister what her name is, intending to look through the hospital correspondence. "It isn't a letter I want. I only wished to know if you would be so kind as to put your date stamp on my collection of Orange River Colony and Transvaal stamps." You smile sadly and do the job.

Sometimes one of the exceptions to the general rule of considerate officers will pay us a visit: "Er, hev you anything for ME?" "Pardon, sir, but what is your name?" "I'm, er, Lieutenant, er, — of the — regiment." "No, sir, nothing here for you." "Nonsense, man, there must be; I shall have to make a report to the army postmaster." Then he'll glance round and see a pile of letters. "Er, what are these letters? Are you *sure* none are for me?" Oh we're glad to see him leave the place!

Our most amusing visitors are Kaffirs or Basutos. Perhaps there are a dozen letters in the office addressed (by unpronounceable names) to the niggers. By some mysterious mode of telegraphy all the "boys" in the locations become aware of the arrival of letters from Basutoland, and for hours crowds of these black lumps of

humanity will hang around the door. They cannot make themselves understood, and we usually get rid of them by showing them a handful of letters, which satisfies them, and away they go dancing

Visitors are requested not to spill the Liquids as De Wel Steyns



and jabbering after the fashion of their kind. Of quite opposite character are the Indians who call for letters. They are splendid looking men, handsome and dignified, with none of the frivolity of the African nigger. They are men to be admired. Respectful to any white man, they look upon and treat with scorn the childish

African. And what a picture of neatness and colour are they ; dressed in wide kharki trousers, long frocks bound at the waist by a broad band of red and yellow, glittering burnishers, and a startling coloured turban. They make a pleasing splash of colour amidst the dull dress of the Tommies. To deal with the correspondence of the hundreds of Indians employed at the remount depôt we have in Kroonstad one of the Indian postal men ; he assists at the counter and acts as interpreter.

And now a few words as to our Christmas festivities. Our Christmas dinner was hardly an active service one. The orders proclaimed the day a general holiday, so we closed the office at one o'clock, and stepped out into the burning atmosphere. What a contrast to the cold weather at home ! Out here one's face and hands bronze deeper and deeper with the fierce hot rays of the sun.

On the 27th December we gave a grand smoking concert at our diggings at the Salvation Army Hall. The place held 100 persons comfortably, and we had a full house. Public opinion here says it was one of the finest concerts ever given in Kroonstad. We served refreshments free, each man contributing his share toward that part of the programme. Everything went off well. The hall was nicely decorated with boughs of various trees. All kits and blankets had been stowed away under the flooring, and we took down every religious tract so that no one's scruples should be offended. Our next door neighbour, Mr. Campbell, generously allowed us the loan of a piano, and we found an expert player easily. It's really surprising what talent is out with this great army men of every trade and profession, from engine builders to potters. Four ladies honoured us with their company, and in expressing their enjoyment of the concert, added their surprise at the unexpectedly decorous behaviour of the "Tommies." When the ladies entered, the cheering was deafening ; so pleased were the men to see them amidst the monotonous kharki.

Much more could be written of work and play in our F.P.O. ; but I must stay my pen, for the train is just in with 130 bags for columns now coming over the distant ridge. The train has beaten the marching men, and all their correspondence must be ready for them on their arrival. Very dirty, ragged, and sun-browned, will our callers be to-day, for they have been on the veldt for some six or seven weeks.

F.P.O., Kroonstad.

F. RUTHERFORD.

The Post Office Employés' Widows' and Orphans' Annuity Fund.

THE institution of the above-named fund was suggested by the late Mr. Herbert Price, at a dinner given to that gentleman at the Holborn Restaurant, in May, 1895, in recognition of his services in connection with the founding, and as secretary of The Post Office Employés' Mutual Guarantee Association. (See volume V. of this Magazine, which contains at pages 324—9 the report of a speech by Mr. Price on the subject of the fund.) It was hoped that the members of the Guarantee Association would have voted a sum to start the fund, but a proposal to that effect was not carried, and for some time the matter lay dormant.

The Post Office Employés' Mutual Guarantee Association had three years previously undertaken insurance business mainly with the object of providing the means to establish the annuity fund; and in 1894 the Post Office Employés' Insurance Society was incorporated for the purpose of continuing and extending the insurance business hitherto carried on by the Guarantee Association, and also to further the scheme for promoting the annuity fund. The scheme could not, however, be launched until a sufficient sum was available to ensure a fair prospect of success; and it was not until the end of 1899 that the Insurance Society voted the sum of £100 for the initial expenses of setting the annuity fund on foot.

Rules for the management of the fund had been already drawn up, and were registered by the Registrar of Friendly Societies under the Friendly Societies Act, 1896, and the fund was started on its career on the 1st January, 1900. The details of the scheme were announced in a circular which was sent to the head postmasters and to many of the metropolitan staff.

A further grant was made to the fund by the Insurance Society in May last of the handsome sum of £500; and this amount, which is now in the hands of the trustees of the fund, will be devoted to the augmentation of such annuities as may be purchased by Post Office servants through the agency of the Post Office Employés' Widows' and Orphans' Annuity Fund.

The entrance fee and subscription giving the right to provide

annuities through the fund are low, and to those joining now no increase in the amount of contribution will be made in future years. By the payment of the entrance fee of 1s., and an annual contribution of 1s. to 5s., a member secures the right for his possible widow and orphans to purchase annuities of from £6 to £30 for the widow, and £6 to £12 for each orphan, payable up to death or eighteen years of age. Membership is open to past, as well as present, Post Office employés, established or un-established.

It is hoped that, besides the contributions of members and grants from the Post Office Employés' Insurance Society, subscriptions and donations will be received, and that also some portion of the fines levied at Post Offices will be handed over to the fund. Several such donations and subscriptions have been already received.

The price to be paid for the annuities depends on the age of the widow or child when the annuity is purchased, and this cannot be fixed until the death of the member. The Society's scales are very similar to, if not lower than, those of outside insurance societies. The purchase money can be provided in any or all of the following ways :—

- (a.) By assigning to the trustees a policy of insurance on a member's life, or other property realisable at his death. An insurance can be effected through the Post Office Insurance Society at 15 per cent. discount off all premiums under any whole life or endowment insurance.
- (b.) By depositing with the trustees the necessary purchase money (returnable if no annuity be purchased), which will bear interest at the Post Office Savings Bank rate.
- (c.) By a member in his will.
- (d.) By the widow or children of a member making a payment according to the tables of rates fixed by the rules.

It is confidently expected that additions from the augmentation of annuities fund of at least 25 per cent. will be made to the annuities so purchased.

An annuity of £6 could be secured for a widow aged 50 by the assignment to the trustees of the fund of a policy of life insurance for £100. Such an insurance may be obtained through the Post Office Employés' Insurance Society by a member aged 30 for the small payment of 2s. 10d. a month.

The sum of £300 would provide an annuity of £12 for a widow whose age was 50 when the annuity was bought, and also for

annuities of £6 each for four children at ages of 10, 12, 14 and 16 years respectively, until reaching 18 years of age. These amounts would probably be increased by grants from the augmentation fund, in the case of the widow to £15 at least, and in the case of each child to £7 10s. at least. A similar amount of £300 would purchase an annuity of £24 for a member's widow 60 years of age; and from the augmentation fund this amount would, in all probability, be increased to £30 at least per annum.

An insurance of £300 could be secured through the Post Office Employés' Insurance Society for a payment of 8s. 10d. per calendar month by a person aged 30, and the policy assigned to the trustees of the fund (upon the member undertaking to pay the annual premium) for the purchase, if necessary, of an annuity or annuities. If the necessity for an annuity did not arise, the policy would be re-assigned according to the rules.

The services of the committee and auditors are honorary and the expenses of management are small. There seems every reason to believe that if members of the Service will only take the trouble to look into the merits of this Society, and consider the advantage of making, at any rate, partial provision for a possible widow or orphans by the means indicated above, its membership will very soon rapidly increase



MODO DE TRASPORTAR CORRESPONDENCIA EN EL INTERIOR.
(A New Year's Card from Honduras.)

Our Library Table.

[We draw no hard and fast line as to the kind of books we notice, but, of course, we give the preference to those written by Civil Servants.]



MR. H. BUXTON FORMAN'S BOOK-PLATE.

WE are permitted to publish this interesting book-plate, from an etching on steel by the late William Bell Scott; and it requires little explanation. It pictures Mr. Buxton Forman engaged on the tasks which have throughout his career employed his "After Office Hours." Indeed, our first inspiration was to publish the picture as an illustration for that particular portion of our pages; but we came to the conclusion that to place Mr. Forman in the midst of stale jokes about Angelina, and lugubrious moralisings on the decadence of the Anglo-Saxon race, would be to put him in somewhat undignified surroundings; and "Our Library Table" seemed a

more fitting setting in the circumstances. The bust towering over Mr. Forman's head is a posthumous one of Shelley modelled by Mrs. Leigh Hunt. The pictures of his grave and birth place on each side of him speak for themselves. The two portraits lying on the table are probably meant to represent proofs from Scott's own etchings of Keats and Shelley portraits; and the roll is possibly intended for the Shelley pedigree, which Mr. Forman published in his library edition. Mr. Forman himself is supposed to be in the act of collating a manuscript text with three separate printed texts, and this may be taken as a characteristic representation of him, as he appears when released from official cares. Mr. Forman has been so often asked for examples of this book-plate that he has felt obliged to make a compromise. Objecting to the use of the actual book-plate for any purpose but that for which it was meant, he has had a few copies pulled on thick paper—too thick to use as a book-plate—with a suitable certificate on the back. The copy in our possession reads as follows:—

*This proof of my portrait
book-plate designed and
etched by my dear old friend
William Bell Scott was not
inserted in any book be-
longing to me, but was given
to Sherwin Ingall
this 26th day of February 1901
H. Buxton Forman*

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF JOHN KEATS, including his Letters.
Edited by H. Buxton Forman, in five monthly volumes.
Price 1s. net each volume. In leather, price 2s. net. Gowans
and Gray, Glasgow, 1900.

WE have introduced Mr. Forman in a very pleasant way to our readers, and now we wish to call attention to the latest volumes which have appeared under his editorship. Among all the numerous series of dainty editions of the English classics, we venture to think

that these volumes occupy a place by themselves. The main features of Mr. Forman's big library edition are here reproduced, and for the small charge of 1s. per volume we are provided with what is really a scholar's edition of the works of Keats, annotated and carefully revised by one who is perhaps the greatest living authority on the subject. The type is admirable; the volumes are light and pleasant to hold; and Mr. Forman provides a short and excellent memoir of the poet. Mr. Forman prides himself on some fresh discoveries of Keats' unpublished writings which he is able to give to the world in this edition; and though some of us may think that these specimens do not add to the reputation of the poet, we are always glad to read anything from the pen of the man who has made us love him for his best work. At other times we have found fault with Mr. Forman for his eagerness to publish what Keats himself may not have thought worthy of the printed page; but we know that we are old-fashioned, and it is the curious literary public which has created this demand. We cannot but admire the painstaking care, prompted by the strongest affection, which is shown in the revision of the text, and the minute textual criticism which is expended on every poem. Like Jowett about things in general, Mr. Forman, on Keats, knows everything. "What he does not know is not knowledge."

One of the most useful features of the volumes is a list of the "Principal works consulted," and this is invaluable to the student. Some of the title pages of the first editions are also reproduced. With the title page of *Poems by John Keats*, published in 1817, is furnished an interesting letter from Messrs. Ollier, Keats' publishers, to his brother, George Keats, concerning the book. Messrs. Ollier report badly of the sale of the poems; one gentleman has told them that it is "no better than a take in," and "in many cases we have offered to take the book back rather than be annoyed with the ridicule which has time after time been showered upon it."

That was written in 1817, and what is now the reputation of Keats? That Messrs. Gowans & Gray have thought it a profitable speculation to publish this scholarly edition at a price which can only be remunerative as the result of a huge circulation, is a sufficient answer to this question. "I think," wrote Keats to his brother, "I shall be among the English poets at my death." And Mr. Matthew Arnold's well-known criticism on that remark was, "He is—he is with Shakespeare." But though Keats in this way prophesied to his brother, in his wildest dreams he can never have

anticipated that eighty or ninety years after his death, every poem and line he wrote would be subjected to minute and loving criticism. He is with the immortals in the world of literature; and if among the immortals in that other world behind the scenes, he and Mr. Forman ever meet and exchange greetings, what will he say to his admiring editor? We venture to think that it will not be wholly the words of praise or gratitude; Keats was a sensitive spirit, and he was essentially a modest man. But he will frankly forgive Mr. Forman some possible indiscretion, on account of his great love. If Keats is with the English poets, he surely owes much of his fame to the editor who has so persistently encouraged the British public to study "the complete works."

THE COMPLETE ANGLER. By Izaak Walton. The Sportsman's Classics. Cloth, 1s. 6d. net; leather, 2s. net. Gay and Bird, 22, Bedford Street, Strand, W.C.

THIS is the first volume of a series to be called "The Sportsman's Classics," and it is difficult to conceive of a happier choice for the beginner of such a venture. In the dainty form in which the dear old book is once more introduced to us, we have, indeed, an admirable setting for "that delicate and pensive product which is the prose of Izaak Walton." Editor and publishers may be congratulated on the taste and discretion displayed in providing a genuine companion for the pocket. What we call psychological influence in individuals, we label as charm in books, and the subtle charm of the Complete Angler is felt by all lovers of literature, as well as by those who are "lovers of virtue and go-a-angling." There are hundreds of books on various kinds of sport, but comparatively few of their number carry with them the peculiar atmosphere which should belong to their subject. A book on cricket is, more often than not, a book on cricket, nothing more, and the writer does not convey to the reader on a single page the love that he doubtless feels for the game. But in the case of Walton you are made to delight in angling before you have purchased your rod, or discovered your bait. And, with him in your pocket, why "go-a-angling at all?"

In these unquiet days how refreshing to the spirit to put away from you, on a brief holiday, the strife of parties and the fierce competition of commercial life, and to yield yourself up to an author who, instead of harassing you with tragedy or problems, asks you to accompany him while he proceeds "to some observations on the Pike." Walton lived in as stirring times as our own: the fierce

controversies of politics and religion were all around him, but he had no ear for them ; much more important in his eyes is the art of snigling. " And because you, that are but a young angler, know not what snigling is, I will now teach it to you." Cavalier and Round-head, Catholic and Presbyterian, filled the air with their discussions on politics and religion, but Izaak Walton starts, to him, a far more important question than was agitating the churches. He bids the theologians, in his mild, contemplative fashion, ask themselves, " How did our Saviour regard angling ? " And sweetly and reverently he answers, " That He never reproved these (His disciples) for their employment as He did Scribes and the Money-changers. And secondly, that He found that the hearts of such men were by nature fitted for contemplation and quietness ; men of mild, and sweet and peaceable spirits, as indeed most Anglers are ; these men our blessed Saviour, who is observed to love to plant grace in good natures, though, indeed, nothing be too hard for Him, yet these men He chose to call from their irreprovable employment of fishing, and gave them grace to be His disciples, and to follow Him and do wonders. I say, four of the twelve." And further on he asks us to compare " the affectionate, loving, humble epistles of St. Peter, St. John, and St. James, who we know were all fishers, with the glorious language and high metaphors of St. Paul, who we may believe was not." What a delicate reproach of fine writing ! High metaphors were indeed an abomination to the gentle Izaak. " Take a carp, alive if possible, score him, and rub him clean with water and salt, but scale him not ; then open him and put him with his blood and his liver, which you must save when you open him, into a small pot or kettle ; then take sweet marjoram, thyme and parsley, of each half a handful, a sprig of rosemary, and another of savoury, bind them into two or three small bundles and put them to your carp with four or five whole onions, twenty pickled oysters, and three anchovies." And why this loving treatment ? Because " the carp is the queen of rivers, a stately, a good, and a very subtle fish." Yes, let us all throw our shilling shockers out of the window and go-a-angling.

BALLADS OF GHOSTLY SHIRES. Folk Lore Verses. By George Bartram, author of *The People of Clopton*, *The Whiteheaded Boy*, etc. Price 2s. 6d. Greening and Co., 20, Cecil Court, St. Martin's Lane, W.C. 1900.

THOSE of us who remember *The People of Clopton* will open any book with George Bartram's name attached thereto with eager

interest. And in the volume before us they will find their high expectations in no way disappointed. Mr. Bartram sings of the mysterious borderland of the spirit world which is so much more real to the dwellers in the country than it is to the inhabitants of big cities. In verse which has within it the sense of mystery, and a really fine imaginative force, he tells his ghost stories of the country side, and if he fails to touch the heights of great poetry, he always succeeds in maintaining a high level of excellence. He tells a story as one possessed with the reality and the mysteriousness of its purport, while his language is simple, and his manner restrained.

“Oh, but when I list to tell
The ghostly tales I love so well,
The ripened glow of a ruddy fire
Comes nearest to my soul's desire—
A red peat-fire in a panelled room,
And a tiny rift in the curtains warm
That prints a star on the outer gloom
That waves on high an elfin torch,
To light secure to the gabled porch
The 'wilderer quarry of the storm.”

Here is the atmosphere for a teller of ghost stories, and we breathe it all the time we are turning over Mr. Bartram's pages.

INDEXING AND PRÉCIS WRITING. By A. J. Lawford Jones, of H.M. Civil Service, Medallist and First Prizeman of the Society of Arts, March, 1900. Price 1s. 6d. Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons Ltd., 1, Amen Corner, E.C., Bath, and New York.

MR. LAWFORD JONES has had fifteen years' experience of Civil Service coaching, and we have in the book before us some of the results of his observations. His work is admittedly for the student, and for those who wish to pass the Service examinations, as well as those of other bodies, such as the Society of Arts, the City and Guilds of London Institute, the London Chamber of Commerce, and the Technical Instruction Board of many of the County Councils. Indexing and précis writing are required in candidates for posts in all these bodies, and Mr. Jones tells them in plain, practical terms how the knowledge can be acquired. He even tells how to write an official letter, but he is careful not to guarantee a letter written under his instructions being spared re-drafting by some high official who is not familiar with the rules which govern indexing and précis writing. But the important thing is that such a letter

will satisfy the Civil Service examiners, though subsequently it may be corrected out of all recognition by a Controller or Assistant-Secretary. Among the exercises provided is the celebrated "Correspondence relating to the recent Political Situation in South Africa," published by Mr. Chamberlain at the time of the last General Election. Lastly we are told "How to Epitomise a Blue Book," and members of Parliament might study these hints to advantage.

The book is an excellent manual for the student, and we recommend it most cordially.

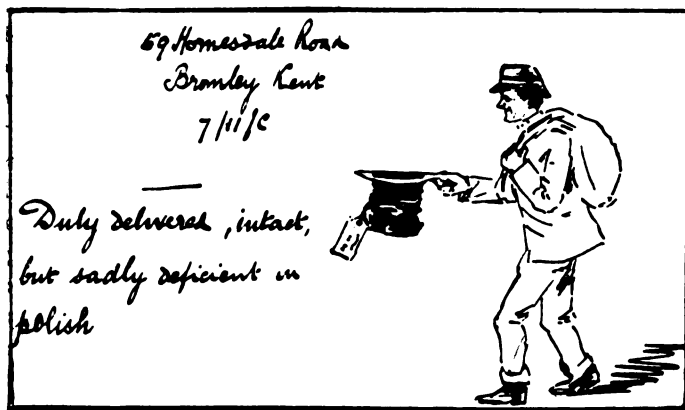
THE COPYISTS' OWN JOURNAL. March, 1901. Edited by Ernest E. Gobert. Price 1d. Crussha and Son (Trade Union), 823, High Road, Tottenham.

To the ordinary business man the way in which boy labour in the Civil Service is managed is singularly idiotic. A boy passes his examination, is appointed to an office; he is put through the usual mill; he gains experience, learns the technical work of his post, becomes perhaps before he is 19 a valuable clerk, and then at that age, if he cannot pass some competitive examination which has little relation to the work he has been doing, he is turned adrift to find something outside the Service. And so hard do some Departments work their boys, that they are physically unfitted to study for higher examinations, while it is often the case that the best clerk cuts a poor figure before the examiners. At any rate, we have the best means of knowing that the copyists are an enterprising body, and we grudge the loss of the many able ones who leave us annually because of our ridiculous restrictions. The copyists now have their own newspaper. This is the fifth number of *The Copyists' Own Journal*, and it has about it the unmistakable signs of vigour and self-confidence. The Editor, Mr. Gobert, who is to be specially commended for his energy and perseverance, writes a serial, and, young though he is, he has apparently two other stories among his published works. Alex. Kinloch finds out a sentence in one of Mr. Matthew Arnold's prefaces to the effect that when the year 1900 comes, "Wordsworth and Byron will stand out by themselves among our poets." In a suggestive little essay, he asks, "Was he wrong?" The Editor is very severe on touting advertisements which draw the provincial boy to London with the idea that he is going to make a fortune in the Service. And he truly says, that unless you live at home, thirteen shillings a week is not a living wage for a boy

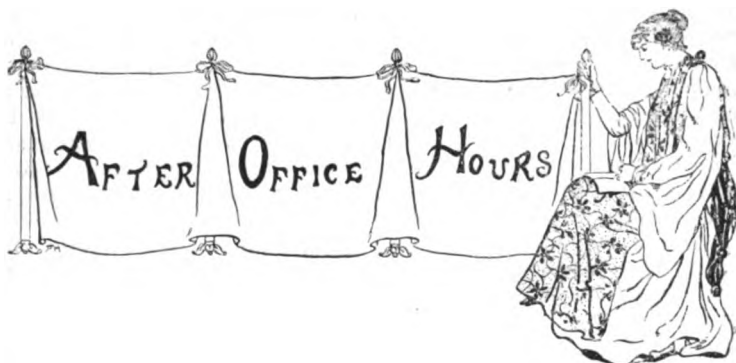
who is a stranger in London. There is a Student's Page, and Editor's notes which are racy and to the point. Mr. Bert F. Browne gives a picture of the boy copyist working overtime, and then returning home only to work again for his examination. Though the sketch would be better for a little more clearness in indicating the point intended, there is a touch of tragedy in the picture. We congratulate the boys most heartily on their enterprise, and we really don't know whether we *do* hope they will pass their examinations. Some of them, we venture to think, are made for better things.

THE UNION OBSERVER. March, 1901. Junior Civil Service Christian Union, London. Price 1d.

WE noticed some months ago this little publication, which is also the work of the boys of the Service. It is more distinctly religious than *The Copyists' Own Journal*, but it does not suffer in loss of brightness on that account. Moreover illustrations, and excellent ones too, accompany many of the articles, and we notice that even the boys of the service can provide pages entitled: "Service Memories." This we had thought was a perquisite of *St. Martin's le-Grand*, but memories of the service begin early, and are with us to the end. We are glad to see our little contemporary flourishing.



REVERSE SIDE OF A POSTCARD ADDRESSED TO MR. WRIGHT, SENIOR,
8, STORMONT ROAD, LAVENDER HILL, S.W.



**"Prophecy not unto us right things : speak unto
us smooth things."**

A VERY kind but anonymous correspondent has written to me to express his appreciation of the articles I am in the habit of writing in these columns, but he wishes that I would take a little more trouble to hide my political opinions from my readers. In particular he considers my allusions to Mr. Rudyard Kipling in our last number "in very questionable taste." I have also received a communication from a lady correspondent who, with more courage and perhaps courtesy than my masculine friend, signs her name to her complaint, and the question she puts to me is briefly this: "How do I reconcile the South African War with the teachings of Christianity?" She is much shocked at the prominence given to the war in the numbers of the magazine published last year, and she attributes the circumstance to the Jingo proclivities of the Editor. I venture to call both my correspondents by a name which is frequently given in the theological world to certain critics of religion. They are "heresy hunters," and their enthusiasm for the sport has led them in the present instance to a somewhat ridiculous conclusion. It is evident that from two different points of view I am at once a Pro-Boer and a violent Jingo, and the only authority for both accusations is admittedly the articles I write or publish in this magazine. Surely we have here a case of compensating errors, and the mere statement of the two charges brought against me must leave me, in the eyes of the vast majority of my readers, in the possession of an absolutely clean slate. My political mind is clearly a *tabula rasa*, and I have attained the chief object of a permanent Civil Servant's ambition: I am non-political.

Now I do not intend, at least in these pages, to answer the lady's question. I recommend her to address her query to the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Dean of Durham, and the Rev. Hugh Price Hughes. I will then reply by putting to her another question: "How does she reconcile the different views she has obtained with one another?" With my male friend, however, who fights under

cover, I have a little bone to pick. According to him it is very questionable taste to shudder at the low standard that has been reached by an age which owns Rudyard Kipling as its most popular author. Mark well that the origin of the shudder on my part was not Rudyard Kipling himself, the greater portion of whose work I respectfully admire, but the admitted fact that we do not seem able to produce anybody better than he as the literary representative of our age. It is true I conceive that age to be especially distinguished for certain qualities of bounce and bluster which find in Mr. Kipling a gifted exponent. But that is not the point at issue. With all humility I advance the opinion that literary ages which have had as their most distinguished representatives such men as Shakespeare, Milton, Dryden, Pope, Johnson, Wordsworth, Tennyson, and Browning, are not worthily succeeded by an age in which Mr. Kipling occupies a place in the front rank. I never questioned the fact that he occupied that position; my shudder arose from the thought of the sterility of his contemporaries which makes such a state of things possible. My friend's position then amounts to this: That it is bad taste to oppose ourselves to the accepted standards of our age, and to point out our shortcomings; the need of the hour is a prophet of smooth things, whose patriotism degenerates into self-flattery, and who has nothing to learn from other nations.

We all know that very objectionable type of politician who is the friend of every country but his own; but even he is a shade less hopeless than the man who is the friend of no country but his own. With the latter, progress of any sort is almost impossible, and the man who ventures, as I did in our last number, to suggest that we had much to learn even from so benighted a country as France, is at once suspected by this type of individual of being a Pro-Boer, or a disciple of the amiable but eccentric Editor of the *Review of Reviews*.

I wonder whether my readers ever think how very difficult it must be for a writer who holds, as I do, the strongest convictions on political, religious, and official questions, to keep silent in these pages on subjects about which he feels keenly. In addition to conviction he may possess enthusiasm, and a fair amount of sentimentalism, yet he is expected to put all this aside in "After Office Hours," and to write colourless and flippant articles, which, if they fail to raise a smile, are considered to be "below the writer's usual standard." Intended by nature to be an ardent reformer and a passionate advocate of strongly held opinions, I am condemned by the necessities of my position to become a trifler, to suppress myself all along the line, to pose as a pessimistic optimist, who is allowed to meditate discreetly on any subject which may happen to lie outside the religious, political, and official worlds. When I know that my true mission is to attack unbelievers, politicians, and heads of departments, I have to be content with a well-understood permission to chaff my wife, and to poke fun at no official who is

higher in rank than a principal clerk. Readers have often asked me, "Why are you always chaffing principal clerks?" but the reason is obvious. I relate stories of heads of departments, secretaries and assistant secretaries, but lest I should be considered guilty of a breach of official etiquette, I always attribute those which do not redound to the credit of the officers in question to principal clerks. It is rough on a class, I admit, but then look at my limitations. Moreover, they obtain relief directly they are promoted. Then, every quarter the heresy hunters lie in wait to pounce upon me, and I have in self-defence to resort to the *suppressio veri*.

I ask my readers to be patient with me. I am really doing my best to be something I am not. Like Charity, I am not easily provoked, but neither, on the other hand, am I an extinct volcano. The guides on Mount Heckla have a way of irritating the volcano in order that it may lose its temper for the benefit of the tourists. I wonder what my readers would say if they saw "After Office Hours" in a state of eruption. Such a conflagration is quite possible, and if it is to be avoided or postponed, a little occasional outlet, a small waste-pipe, might perhaps be admitted. May I smile sometimes, for instance, at the conceit of Anglo Saxons? May I say sometimes that France can teach us lessons? May I mention Mr. Kipling's name in terms other than superlative? It is very distressing no doubt in an age which is so conscious of its greatness to find a man capable of such thoughts; but think of what is underneath, of which these mild opinions are but the outward and visible signs. Think of it, and then allow a small over-flow to the self-suppressed writer, who for the last ten years has made the suppression of himself the leading article of his literary creed, so far as these columns are concerned.

Perhaps, though, it is really a baser self which is being suppressed; a sayer of pleasant things is certainly more acceptable than a Jeremiah or a Carlyle. Some of us may serve a useful purpose in merely providing the oil which keeps the wheels of life from creaking. I have a sneaking fondness for all pleasant spoken people, especially those who, like myself, find it an effort to be pleasant, and I don't see why we should place so much value on mere deeds. It is, for instance, pleasant to be assured by your chiefs time after time during a quarter of a century of the brilliant official future which lies before you, even though the words be repeated when you are beginning to see your own retirement coming into view. There is nothing to be aggrieved at in such frequent repetitions of pleasant things; for disciplinary purposes you realise that it is advisable for your chiefs to say them; you know that for the time being you are pleased, although as the years go on the pleasure you feel will become more artistic, and the sordid desire to see the future realised will have been worked out of your system. You will, if you have philosophy, care less and less for the official carrots which are held before your nose, and you will learn that the humble thistles which are to be found at your feet, not to mention

the wayside odds and ends you can pick up, are the best food for a self-respecting donkey. But official life is arranged on the idea that donkeys care more for prospective carrots than thistles as certainties, and so carrots are dangled.

But what I insist upon is, that the mere process of dangling is pleasant ; it may have no basis—in fact, the carrot may be a dummy—but if it makes the donkey eager, zealous, and happy for an hour, the conduct is justified from the driver's point of view. The chief of a department must necessarily be a prophesier of smooth things, and if this be so the editor of a Service journal will not aspire to a higher degree of conscientiousness.

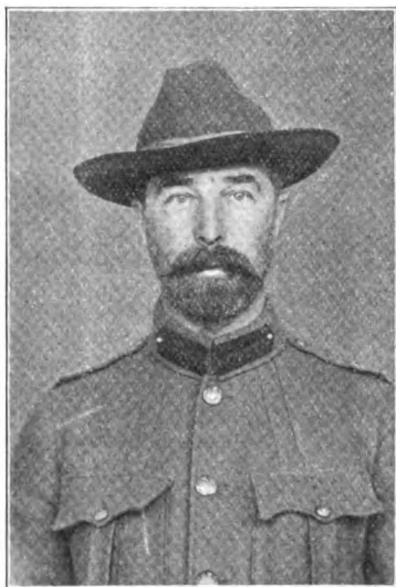
In this effort to say pleasant things concerning a very limited choice of subjects, I often find myself talking about myself, and I know how indistinct is the line which is drawn between egoism and self-revelation. Mr. A. B. Walkley said in *The Star* the other day of himself, and we can well believe it, "I am not going to let him (Bernard Shaw) bully me out of the dearest convictions of my soul, the belief in modesty, in quiet, in the elegances of literature and life, in a sober classicism, in the dignity of letters." Everybody who knows Mr. Walkley will recognise this bit of self-portraiture, and agree with him that we may have too much sometimes of an author's personality. "Here is a man," Mr. Walkley goes on, "who brags of his brains, of his experience, of his fine perceptions, of his very immodesty"—Mr. Walkley has, of course, in this sentence abandoned self-portraiture and is describing Mr. Shaw—and he adds that the immediate need of the hour is to suppress such men. I occasionally read the Pro-Boer press and I notice that Mr. Walkley seems developing into a man with a mission : he wants to put down all impertinent critics of Mr. Walkley, such as Mr. Massingham, and all humorists who talk about themselves, such as Mr. Shaw. And like all men with a mission, Mr. Walkley is in danger of becoming rather dull over the business. He is no longer a prophesier of smooth things, but a somewhat virulent opponent of his brother critics. None the less I partly agree with him, albeit with a sly smile stealing over my features when I think of the wrong impressions one may form of men, and how difficult it is even to know oneself.

The only knowledge of men and women that is worth having is the knowledge of their characters, and we should only care to know opinions so far as they are an index of character. If a man or a woman's character does not interest me I have very little concern with their opinions about anything. I never heard of any sane individual who really liked another person, or for the matter of that disliked him, because of his opinions. Angelina and I agree about nothing in the heaven above or in the earth beneath : in this way we maintain interest in each other ; and married life, I venture to submit, is always more satisfactory when both parties to the contract continue to develop on separate lines, rather than allow themselves to be merged in what is practically one personality. Opinions don't count a bit in the things that really matter, and in "After Office Hours"

they should not really disturb us. They are simply the straw out of which we poor journalists have to make our literary bricks. The thing that matters is the brick, and a writer should be judged only by the way in which he expresses his opinions. Otherwise you reduce him to the level of a political partisan or a missionary.

Let us, by all means, say pleasant things about ourselves to one another ; let us hide away all consciousness of each other's failings, but I, for one, shall be sulkier than I used to be, and there will be before long, as I have already said, a natural convulsion in these pages. I shall, one day, go for the bishops, the government, and the Postmaster-General : I shall lampoon assistant-secretaries, and tell tales against them which are really proper to principal clerks. And instead of merely chaffing Angelina I will show up the whole sex. I have the facts by me now, but my present determination to say only smooth things restrains me. *St. Martin's-le-Grand* has survived many disasters, and it may get over this blow, but the editor will go from his post *and* the Service. I often think what a lovely feeling it must be to any man to know that once in his life he has really said what was on his conscience, that he has let himself go on the subjects nearest to his life. The joy in his own heart must be so great that the mere incidence of that process commonly called "the sack" seems quite trivial in comparison. The question, however, remains "Am I to have a waste-pipe?"

E. B.



LIEUT.-COLONEL J. GREER,
Director, Army Post Office, South Africa, and
Postmaster, Northern District, London.



AN OFFICIAL NEW YEAR'S CARD FROM COPENHAGEN.

St. Martin's Letter-Bag.

Queen Victoria.

SINCE the publication of our last number the great change has taken place in our official and national life which is involved in the substitution of "On His Majesty's Service" for "On Her Majesty's Service" on all official documents. And though the sad event took place more than two months ago, it would ill become a service magazine to be silent on such a matter. It is manifestly impossible to say anything new of the good Queen. She was our chief, our final court of appeal, and it is difficult to estimate the effect on civil servants of the ever present consideration that they were in a very special sense the servants of a great and noble lady. Loyalty to the Crown we all profess, but in this case loyalty is but a poor word to describe the homage which the civil servant rendered to his Sovereign. The Post Office, as we know it, may almost be said to be a creation of the long reign of sixty-three years. Penny postage dates from 1840, and no stamp has yet been issued in this country with a royal portrait other than Queen Victoria's. But our appreciation of the Queen does not spring only from memories of this kind. In all her dealings with postal servants at Windsor, Balmoral, and Osborne, she showed sympathy and appreciation, while few of her subjects made so many calls on our services as she did. We have lost a beloved mistress, and great as is our loyalty to her honoured successor, it is difficult to accustom our lips to the unfamiliar words "God save the King." But it is a difficulty which springs only from old associations and old affection; the words themselves are the expression of our minds and hearts.

Bristol's New Venture.

ON the 16th February last, the Royal Mail Steamer "Port Morant" left the Avonmouth Dock, Bristol, for Jamaica, amid the music of bands, firing of cannon, and hearty cheers of many hundreds of spectators. "This is a great day for Bristol," said Mr. A. L. Jones, the chief of the house of Elder, Dempster & Co., as he stood on the pier head and watched the steamer coming slowly out of the lock. What did he mean? The sailing of the "Port Morant" was the inauguration of an Imperial Direct West India Mail Service, and it is hoped that great benefits will be conferred thereby, not only on Bristol, but also on Jamaica and the West Indies. Mr. Chamberlain has obtained £40,000 as a subsidy to this line of steamships, and nothing will be spared to develop the resources of those portions of His Majesty's Dominions which they

serve. The credit for the inauguration of the service is, indeed, primarily due to the indefatigable Secretary of State for the Colonies. As Mr. Jones has told the Bristolians, his firm, though much credit was due to it, was more or less the humble instrument in the hands of Mr. Chamberlain, whose arrival on the scene to champion the cause of the British West Indies marked the dawn for them of a new era of prosperity.

There was, of course, a send-off banquet in the dining saloon of the "Port Morant." Mr. R. C. Tombs, Postmaster and Surveyor of Bristol, proposed the toast of the day, "Success to the New Service," and Mr. A. L. Jones responded. On this, her first voyage, the "Port Morant" carried about 6,000 or 7,000 letters for Jamaica, and some 10,000 circulars, book packages, &c. She reached her destination safely and in good time, and has since returned to England with a full cargo of fruit, besides carrying passengers and mails. She reached Avonmouth on her return journey on the 19th of March, and it was found, on examination, that the 18,000 bunches of bananas, which formed part of the cargo, were in excellent condition. The fruit-carrying experiment has therefore succeeded; and it may safely be assumed that the prosperity of Jamaica as a supplier of fruit for the English market is assured.

The Australian Commonwealth and Imperial Penny Postage.

SINCE our own great department took the step which had been urged upon it persistently and long from many quarters, namely of linking up the Empire by means of the penny postage scheme, the action of the Australians in keeping aloof from the magic circle, as the scheme is sometimes termed, has been severely criticised. Even Mr. Henniker Heaton, who is generally so proud of his connexion with the land of the Kangaroo, has expressed feelings of shame and humiliation at their conduct. The sight of a large notice displayed in the Post Offices of England to the effect that there is penny postage to every part of the British dominions except Australia gives him great pain; and he looks to the Premier of the Federation, Mr. Barton, to support the removal of the block.

There is no doubt a great deal to be said for the course which was taken by the individual colonies in rejecting the scheme; and the reasons which prompted their attitude are well known. We will not, therefore, recall them now; but we cannot refrain from expressing the hope that, as the federation of the States is *un fait accompli*, it will be thought expedient to follow the example of the energetic and enterprising neighbouring colony of New Zealand in regard to penny postage.

We understand from several sources that the question was discussed at the Inter-colonial Postal Conference lately held at Sydney. The meeting was attended by the permanent heads of the postal departments of the federating colonies; and the conclusion arrived at was that, while the annual loss, so far as Great Britain is

concerned, would not be more than £21,000, to reduce the inter-colonial letter rate to 1d. the $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. would involve a loss to the Commonwealth of £300,000 per annum.

Of this sum New South Wales would lose £83,000, Victoria £53,000, Queensland £59,000, South Australia £40,000, Western Australia £34,000, and Tasmania £24,500; and it was pointed out that, while it would be an intolerable anomaly if there were penny postage with England and twopenny postage between the Federal States, it was difficult to see how this large amount of revenue could be sacrificed.

There is a general opinion that the cheapening of the postage would result in an increase of correspondence; but the Postmasters General expressed the view that, so far as Imperial postage is concerned, there would never be such an increase as would make up for the loss; and they stated in support of it that nearly as many letters used to be sent home when the postage was 4d. as are now sent when the rate is 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. The settlement of the matter is left of course to the Federal Government; and we await its decision with very natural anxiety.

R. W. H.

Natal Post Office Report for 1899.

WE should have liked, and, indeed, it would have been more appropriate, to review this report in our last issue in conjunction with that of the Post Office of the Cape Colony; but unfortunately it got buried and was not unearthed in time.

The report is peculiarly interesting to us, not exclusively on account of the glow afforded to it by its military references, but because it is from the pen of an officer of the Imperial Post Office—Mr. W. Gardiner Hamilton. We ought perhaps to remark, before proceeding further, that Mr. Hamilton has since surrendered the Colonial Postmaster Generalship, and returned to his post in England. Fate, however, has declared that he is again to grace the South African stage, and, ere long, he will bid the Mother Country farewell to occupy the seat lately so hurriedly vacated by Mr. Isaac van Alphen, namely, that appertaining to the Postmaster General of the Transvaal. We wish him well.

In spite of the invasion of the colony, and the subsequent abandonment of a large part of it to the mercies of the gentle Boer and his friends—the scum of continental Europe—the Post Office accounts show a balance to the good of £12,815 18s. 3d. Had it not been for the war, the Postmaster General felt confident that there would have been a substantial increase in all branches of postal work; and, as it was, his calculations of work done were greatly upset by the unusual conditions which supervened.

If any of our readers, in common with a section of the ordinary public, have found that their correspondence from Natal has occupied a longer time in transmission than it was wont, it will be soothing to their feelings to learn that, before the war, the mails were sent by railway to Cape Town by way of the two Republics.

When the railway was cut, they were, at first, despatched from Durban to East London by sea, and thence by rail to Cape Town. Later on, however, the line between East London and De Aar became impracticable, and the mails were, and continued to be at the time when the report was issued, sent to Cape Town all the way by sea.

The Post Office staff played a distinguished part during the military operations which came within the scope of the report. The Engineer in Charge of Telegraphs, Mr. R. W. Weightman, deserves special mention for his services in fitting up a complete telephone exchange in Ladysmith between Sir George White's head-quarters and the positions held by the various regiments and detachments. Needless to say, this excellent piece of work proved of the greatest value in the defence of the town.

R. W. H.

Postage Rates in 1801.

SOME people are always on the look-out for anniversaries, and this year the craze is to discover centenaries. At any rate, such sport often does excellent service, for it enables us to mark time and to make useful comparisons. For instance, on the 5th of April, 1801, under an Act of Parliament, new rates of postage came into operation to meet a call made on the Post Office by the Exchequer for a sum of £150,000. The rates were exclusively of Francis Freeling's devising, and Mr. Joyce tells in his *History of the Post Office* that he had a perfect craze for high rates of postage. Before April 5th, the highest charge was—exceeding 150 miles, 8d. single, 16d. double, 24d. treble, 32d. ounce.

The charges were proportionately less for distances under 150 miles, but the charges we have given were the same for 500 miles and upwards as they were for 150 miles; and this had always disturbed the spirit of Freeling, and the demand of the Exchequer gave him his opportunity. Under the new Act a new scale of rates for distances between 150 and 700 miles came into force, and on and after the 5th of April, 1801, the highest charge was—exceeding 700 miles, 15d. single, 30d. double, 45d. treble, 60d. ounce.

The charges were proportionately less for distances under 700 miles, but the charges up to 150 miles remained almost the same as they were under the old rates. A letter weighing one ounce under the new rates was carried from London to Thurso for 5s.; under the old rates the charge was 2s. 8d.

Mr. Lewin Hill on America.

MR. LEWIN HILL, C.B., has recently returned from a two months' visit to the United States, and he has been giving his impressions to *The Surrey Comet*. With his habitual energy and his alertness of mind, which advancing years seem to make no impression upon, Mr. Hill made the most of his opportunities. And he seems to have talked as straight to the Americans as he used to do to Post Office servants. When the Americans asked him what

he thought of their country, he replied that they were a very remarkable people, and ahead of the English in everything but manners, in which they were sadly lacking. "One hardly ever hears 'thank you' from anybody. Life is much rougher there than in England. I don't think any Englishman would wish to live in America except for commercial purposes. I must say that the Southerners, who live quieter lives, have much gentler manners than they have in the North."

Mr. Hill is known to us all as an enthusiast at whist, and like Mrs. Battle, he objects to the habit of regarding the game in a frivolous spirit. So the American's deep-seated love of whist goes to his heart. Whist in America, according to Mr. Hill, is treated as a serious problem, and women are as diligent in the pursuit of the game as the men. As was to be expected, Mr. Hill condemns the administration of the Civil Service in America, and the system by which the officials change with a change of government. But everywhere he sees signs of enterprise and courage in dealing with great problems which he wishes we could emulate. And throughout these impressions, which we have read with great pleasure, Mr. Hill never once says that the English postal servants are over-paid, or that they have no grievances.

Ten Shillings and Costs.

THE Chief Engineer of the Post Office in one of our big towns was summoned before the Justices of the Peace to show cause why the working of an engine by steam in the city aforesaid was "so negligently used that an unnecessary quantity of smoke was emitted therefrom contrary to the statute in such case made and provided." The Chief Engineer duly appeared, and here is his report to the Superintending Engineer.

"I attended to the attached summons as directed this morning, and was fined 10s. and costs, or 14s. 6d. in all. I am unable to say whether smoke was emitted or not. In these cases the statement of the Inspector is accepted, and any defence is useless or worse. The 21st instant was a very dark day, which caused a fluctuating coal, and the fires had occasionally to be forced, and it is possible that smoke may have been made, but it was not due to negligence. I require authority to pass the amount through my pay bill."

Then it was pointed out to the Chief Engineer that he being a servant of the Department should neither have been summoned nor fined. The Department is not liable in such cases—the Crown not being bound by Acts of Parliament in which it is not specifically mentioned. The Postmaster was then requested to see the Clerk of the Magistrate with a view to the remission of the fine. This was, however, more than the Postmaster was able to accomplish, as "the Stipendiary said very sharply that he had no power to remit the fine. He regarded the case as settled."

There was then nothing to be done but to ask the Chief Engineer what was the line of defence he adopted. And about his reply

there is a very human touch which lights up the whole of the interesting correspondence.

"My line of defence was the trouble and expense the Department went to to prevent smoke, and the sudden work called for, owing to the fog, but the flow of my eloquence was very rudely checked by the Stipendiary remarking, 'ros. and costs.' Being unused to courts of law I was under the impression that if I had not paid there might have been an unpleasant alternative."

Most of our readers, or at least those of our number who have been before a Stipendiary, will think this an excellent reply, but the authorities indulged in a considerable amount of paper and ink before the sentence appears in the papers, "Under the circumstances the fine and the costs may be claimed."

We trust that if ever the Chief Engineer appears again before the Stipendiary on any charge, his fear of the lock-up will not prevent him trying the experiment of a plea of "not guilty."

Once a Palace: now a Post Office.

OLD clothes and old houses often meet with strange reverses of fortune. The dignified frock coat, the only proper official garb for "Chief" or "Head," may bedeck many ignoble forms ere it ceases to be a coat and is finally dismembered, when its ample skirts are popularly supposed to be converted into cheap sailor caps.

Old houses, too. In a town once noted for its "Wells" or "Spaw" may be seen a stately Jacobean building, originally the Assembly Rooms of the place, but now, below are some sordid little shops, and above, the stately ball-room of two centuries ago has become a store-room for secondhand furniture. In the same town a corn-chandler's shop of a staid, respectable appearance may be easily identified as the house where, according to a well-known diarist, "My Lord Buckhurst and Nelly are lodged, and Sir Charles Sedley with them, and keep a merry house." Instances of the kind might be multiplied to the verge of weariness, but one notable example at Enfield, where a former Royal residence is at the present moment tenanted by the Postmaster of that town and his officers, will surely interest the readers of *St. Martin's*.

Enfield House, as the old mansion is now called, is an unprepossessing red brick building, with stone dressings, situated immediately opposite the Parish Church, from which it is separated by the little Market Square. It is partly shut in by shops, and at first sight does not appear to be so ancient as it is proved to be by internal evidence.

In Tudor times Enfield was a Royal Manor, and the older parts of this building are undoubtedly portions of the Manor House where the children of Henry VIII. were brought up, and where the Princess Elizabeth was residing at the time of her Royal father's death. Prince Edward was then at Hertford Castle, and was brought to Enfield by the Earl of Hertford and Sir Anthony Brown, and in this house, in the presence of his sister, he was first told of



MANTELPiece: ENFIELD HOUSE.

[To face page 212.]

to well
abandoned

his accession to the throne. He decorated and beautified the house for his sister, as is seen from his Royal monogram on the carved mantelpiece, and she appears to have resided here during her brother's brief reign. The pew where, according to tradition, she was wont to sit is still to be seen in Enfield Church.

(In 1582 the house was leased by Queen Elizabeth to a private gentleman, and from 1600 to 1623 it seems to have been occupied



CEDAR TREE, ENFIELD HOUSE.

by Lord William Howard. Charles I. alienated it to new holders, and about 1660 it was taken by Robert Uvedale, the Master of the Grammar School, who afterwards obtained the degrees of Doctor of Laws and Doctor of Divinity. This Doctor Uvedale was fond of the study of botany, and grew oranges, myrtles, and other rare plants, and the story runs that one of his pupils brought over a cedar seed from Mount Lebanon, which the doctor planted in 1670 and reared. Certain it is that a very fine cedar occupies the lawn at the rear of the house, and it is believed to be the first cedar ever grown in this country. Unquestionably it is the largest. Although it has suffered at various times from high winds, it is still a magnificent tree, and measures about 4 feet from the ground 18 feet $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The Postmaster, Mr. Hiatt, is endeavouring to raise

some little seedlings from this tree, although they are not more than 2 inches high.

There is little more to chronicle about the house, except that it continued to be used as a school almost down to the time when it was leased to the Postmaster-General, and that amongst former pupils were Sir William de Grey, afterwards Baron Walsingham, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, 1771—'80, Lord Bramwell, Justice of Appeal, and his brother, Sir Fredk. Bramwell, the distinguished engineer.

Altered and rebuilt, as many parts of the old Palace have been since Edward VI. restored it for his sister, portions of the centre and the south wing of the Tudor building still remain. In the interior richly ornamented ceilings displaying the Tudor rose and crown, some massive oak doors, oak-panelled rooms, and an elaborately carved mantelpiece, still attest to its former dignity. Thanks to the kindness of Mr. Hiatt, we are enabled to give an illustration of the mantelpiece, which stands on Ionic and Corinthian columns, and bears the Royal initials E.R. (Edwardus Rex). It displays the arms of England and France, quartered the rose, portcullis, lion and gryphon, and has for motto "*Sola salus servire Deo sunt coltera fraudes.*" This is in a large room, once, no doubt, the hall of the Palace, but now cut up by partitions into passages, public counter, &c. Another large room adjoining, built by the last pedagogue for his schoolroom, now forms a commodious sorting office.

Enfield is a place of great antiquity and interest. Its first charter was granted by Richard II. It is difficult to refrain from describing the old church, and from dwelling upon the associations of John Keats, Charles Lamb, Isaac D'Israeli, Captain Marryat, and Thomas Babbage, calculator, with the old town, but to do so would be to wander beyond the scope of the present paper. J.D.

The Story of a Fight.

TWO messenger boys were recently asked to furnish an explanation of the fact that they were found fighting each other at the delivery room door. Here are the two replies:—

"Sir,—I was going out at the door with my messegges when A. H. B—— was coming in. Some of the other messengers had throwed something which made a mark in his chin. I told him that their was a mark on his chin, and when I was going to let him see where the mark was my hand in a mistake went under his chin causing him to bite his tongue. He then knocked off my bonnett in among the mud, and gave me one on the face with his fist. I asked what he did that for. He then took hold of my cheeks and pulled at them. I then turned round an' caught him at the back of the neck, when Mr. F—— came out and B—— began to cry. I am very sorry for having caught hold of him by the neck, but I will see that nothing of that sort happens again.—G. S——."

"Sir,—I was coming in at the office door when G. S—— came out and hit me under the chin and made me bite my tongue. I

turned and hit him back, knocking his cap on the street. He then turned and wiped it on my back. Then the fight began, and Mr. F—— came out and caught us. And I will see this nothing of this kind happens again.—A. H. B——.”

Ask a Postmaster.

MR. ADAMS, the postmaster of Portsmouth, has received a letter from a gentleman who signs his name with the addition of “Esq.”—he has probably heard of the recent order on the subject—in which the following information is asked for:—

(1) Please send me addresses of furnished apartments, and say terms per week for one sitting and three bed rooms.

(2) Send me a cheap guide to Southsea, giving a plan of the streets. What is the area, and length, and width of the marine lake?

(3) Are there good rowing boats (with sliding seats and outriggers)? Is there a good rowing club? If so, give address of secretaries.

(4) Can good bicycles be hired?

(5) Is there a good riding school for horses? If so, give name and address, and terms for riding lessons. Can first-class saddle horses be hired? State terms per hour, and address of best livery stables where saddle horses can be hired.

(6) Is the beach sand or shingle?

(7) Is there good sea bathing?

(8) Is there a school where type-writing and shorthand is taught?

(9) What salary do shorthand clerks get?

(10) Can electric baths be obtained? If so, state charge.

(11) Is the winter and spring very mild? Is Southsea recommended by doctors for consumptives?

(12) Do you have much snow?

(13) Is there a good gymnasium? Address, please. I enclose a stamped envelope. *No post cards, please.*

With regard to the last request, we should like to see the post-card which could contain the required information? Let us hope, however, that Southsea has secured this desirable visitor.

Adventures of a Mail Cart.

A PART from wind and weather and highwaymen, the incidents attending the conveyance of His Majesty's mails in rural districts often prove highly interesting and occasionally exciting. On the 10th December last the R—— cart arrived at 9.45 p.m. punctually at the Chippenham sorting office. It was then discovered that the driver was asleep and had omitted to call at three places for mails, the farthest village being six miles back. The driver had picked up mails in due course at offices one and two miles distant from his starting point (10 miles from Chippenham), and had evidently dropped off to sleep at a point somewhere

between the second and fourth mile inward, and had enjoyed an uninterrupted hour's slumber, whilst his faithful steed had safely brought him and the precious load to the journey's end. The ingenious explanation offered by the driver was that, having toothache, he had accepted some home made wine proffered to him at a stopping place on the road with the object of allaying the pain. The wine had proved all too effective !

Five nights later a new driver commenced duty. On his very first inward journey, noticing that one of the outside parcel baskets had shifted, he stopped to adjust it, and in doing so slipped off the cart and the basket fell upon him, breaking his ankle. Before the poor fellow could pick himself up the horse started off and again travelled unguided to the Chippenham Office, where the officials were naturally concerned over the absence of the driver, and immediately sent a vehicle in search of him. The accident to the driver caused him to be laid aside for several months, and he is likely to be lamed by it for life. Naturally this sagacious horse is a valuable possession to the mail contractor and a good servant to the post office.

As a rule driving a mail cart at night is most uncongenial and monotonous work, whilst at times the occupation is attended with considerable personal risk, and a local driver was lately heard to say he would rather break stones by the roadside than continue driving a mail cart. How welcome would be a simple cup of hot coffee supplied by contractors or the Department to drivers of mail carts at the starting points on the inward and outward journeys, and how much would it contribute towards the punctual and efficient performance of these important services of the State.

Chippenham.

F. TAYLOR.

Puzzles for Sub-Postmasters.

A VAST amount of confusion exists in the minds of many sub-postmasters and counter clerks as to the proper course to be adopted in opening an account in the Post Office Savings Bank for a minor who is under seven years of age. There are two ways in which this may be done, and the authorities have prepared a lengthy form explaining in full the two procedures. Some sub-postmasters appear to think that the confusion of mind which exists on this matter is at headquarters, as the printed form does not make the matter clear to them. However that may be, here is the reply of one sub-postmaster to a caution paper addressed to him. "The Sub-Postmaster have looked over these instructions which appear somewhat complicated and regrets If any Error have occurred. But Praps will not occur again in Our Time, which is only Short. We are Retiring from The Business on The 31st of this Month and Wish our Successor Better Luck." Before this paragraph is published our friend will have ceased his connection with the Post Office, and "complicated" puzzles set by his chiefs will no longer puzzle him. Notice how, at the thought of retirement, his pen seems to take to itself wings as he winds up with a beautiful burst of capital letters. Who does not sympathise with him !

General Penny Postage ; or Troubles of Men of Letters.

For grave reflection it is food,
 In every grade and every station ;
 That what is stamp'd a *public* good,
 Oft' breeds in *private* much vexation.

The *general* benefit 'tis true,
 All counter argument must humble ;
 Yet, if we rank'd among *the few*
 'Tis very likely we might grumble.



The railroad lads their trains may puff,
 Compar'd with which fast drags are creepers
 But only mark their influence rough,
 On coachmen, guards, and stable-keepers.

Folks who keep Inns along the road,
 Now absolutely nothing doing ;
 Wishing all railroads may be — blown,
 For plunging them in hopeless ruin.

Then there's the penny postage scheme,
 For which to Rowland Hill we're debtors ;
 Pregnant, no doubt, with good supreme,
 But plaguy bore to "Men of Letters!"

- " Good morning, Bill, this penny plan,
 I vish vas fairly at Old Harry;
 For here's a load, as I'm a man,
 Sufficient for a hass to carry.
- " I vish our bags vos on the dunce,
 Upon this precious scheme who blunder'd;
 Vy vhere ve had a letter vonce,
 Ve now have uppards of a hundred!
- " Whoever sarv'd us out this dose,
 I hope a thunderbolt may shiver 'em;
 Ven do the office nobbs suppose
 Ve shall be able to deliver 'em?"

[*Note.*—These interesting verses, and the accompanying illustration, are taken from a collection of old press cuttings, and bear the date 1838; but we are unable to give the name of the newspaper or magazine in which they appeared. Perhaps our readers can supply the information.]

Lieut. R. A. Moffatt.

WE give below the portrait of Lieut. R. A. Moffatt, who was cabled for by Lieut.-Colonel Greer from South Africa when the latter took up his position as head of the Army Post Office. Lieutenant Moffatt has seen eleven years service in the Post Office,



LIEUT. R. A. MOFFATT.

being attached at the time he was summoned to South Africa to the Northern District Office. He is in charge of the General Accounts Branch of the British Army Post Office in South Africa.

The late Mr. R. James.

WE regret to chronicle the death, from cancer, in January last, after a protracted illness, of Mr. Richard James, late Chief Clerk and the oldest official in the Liverpool Office. Born near Pwllheli some 63 years ago, he entered the Liverpool office on a supplementary establishment in 1885, passed through the several grades, and was appointed to his late position in 1897 on the translation of Mr. Robinson to Southampton. For many years past he had paid an annual visit to the American continent, usually as the guest of the Hon. T. L. James, late Postmaster General of the United States, or the late Mr. Pearson, ex-Postmaster of New York, with both of whom he was a *persona grata*. Mr. James was possessed of a strong physique, and had been singularly free from sickness until the last year or so, and to those who knew him well it was distressing to mark the steady decline of the last few months while the strong man battled with his insidious disease in a brave endeavour to fill out the term allotted to him by relaxation of the age limit. Of somewhat brusque manner, he had withal a kindly heart, and to colleagues of this and a former generation, as well as a wide circle of commercial friends, his demise has occasioned deep concern. A portrait of Mr. James appeared in our seventh volume.

Mr. Thomas Mason.

ON Monday, the 18th February, Mr. Thomas Mason, who for the past twenty-three years has been Superintendent for special telegraph business, Secretary's Office, and who was recently



MR. T. MASON.

promoted to the position of Telegraph Traffic Manager, was the recipient of a handsome testimonial—consisting of an English

rosewood quarter chiming clock, two pairs of massive silver candlesticks, and a beautifully designed illuminated address—subscribed for by a large number of telegraphists from the principal towns in England, and the Telegraph Battalion of the Royal Engineers, and by representatives of the sporting press. The testimonial was given in recognition of Mr. Mason's indefatigable exertions on behalf of the public service, and also of the great courtesy and kindness shown by him to those under his control, with whom he is most deservedly popular. Mr. H. Toothill, who succeeds Mr. Mason as Superintendent, made the presentation, and was supported by Captain Morrison, R.E., Mr. C. Vyle, Engineer-in-Chief's Department, Mr. A. Swift, and Mr. A. Walker (Asst.-Supts.), Secretary's Office, and Mr. D. Davis, Central Telegraph Office. Mr. A. Walker acted as secretary and treasurer to the testimonial fund.

Mr. R. S. Smyth.

MR. R. S. SMYTH has been postmaster of Londonderry for thirty-three years, and he now retires under the age regulations. But he entered the Post Office service in 1855, and in 1860 was appointed chief clerk at Belfast. He was offered and



MR. R. S. SMYTH.

declined two postmasterships—Downpatrick and Kingstown—before he accepted Londonderry in 1867. In 1898 he was offered the postmastership of Darlington, but he declined it, and so great was the appreciation by the citizens of Londonderry of his determination to remain with them, that they made him a valuable presentation, which we recorded at the time. His own staff have now presented him with an illuminated address, a gold watch, and roller-top desk on his retirement. In the speech in which he thanked his colleagues, Mr. Smyth mentioned a fact which reflects great credit on Londonderry. He said that during all the thirty-four years he had been postmaster not a single established officer had been found to

be dishonest. Everybody who knows Mr. Smyth speaks well of him. Our acquaintance with him has been mainly by letter, but we have met him on one or two occasions when he has been visiting London, and we have been struck by his energy, his devotion to the service, and his social charm. He has been a good friend to *St. Martin's-le-Grand*, both as a contributor and a supporter in other ways, and we wish him long life and happiness.

A Civil Servant of the Old School.

EDWARD HENRY AUGUSTUS FISHER, whose portrait we produce in this issue of our magazine, and who died on the 27th January last at Richmond, was a gentleman of the old order of Civil Service Clerks. His connection with the Post



MR. E. H. A. FISHER.

Office was long and honourable. He was appointed to the Service in the year 1845, with two brothers, each having been a direct nominee of the Postmaster-General of the day,—the Earl of Lonsdale. At that period there was an advent of some 40 or 50 clerks to the Post Office, drawn from various parts of the country.

The object of this sketch was, from the outset of his official career, preeminently a society man, but that did not prevent him from being scrupulously exact in the performance of his official duties, invariably punctual in his attendance and making himself thoroughly acquainted with the most minute detail of the working of his duties. While many others neglected their personal appearance in the dusty surroundings of their work as junior clerks, Mr. Fisher was always faultlessly attired. This attention to dress was conspicuous throughout his official career, and the few of his old colleagues now remaining will recall the fact that he invariably wore coats of the best broad-cloth, and shoes of the most highly polished "patent" leather. Mr. Fisher at the time of his entrance to *St. Martin's-le-Grand* was drafted to the Inland Office, where he

served for many years. He was afterwards in the Foreign Section of the Registered Letter Department, and on the branch system being introduced in the Circulation Office, in the year 1867, he became an Assistant Superintendent in the Inland Section. Later on he was promoted to the Superintendentship, and carried on the duties of that post for several years with the utmost energy and zeal. The "midday" dignitaries left duty at the stroke of 4.0 p.m., and as chief of the office from that hour to 8.0 p.m., Mr. Fisher met with many of the distinguished visitors to St. Martin's-le-Grand, royalties and other great persons.

Mr. Fisher suggested many improvements in the method of carrying on the duties. His prescience always stood him in good stead, for, at the outset of the evening duty in the Sorting Office, he could readily gauge at 6 o'clock what would be the position at 7, and, further, how he would make his despatch at 8.0 p.m., when the evening mails were sent away. Although at first a plan of his of drafting the force from one division to another seemed to be irritating to the Staff, yet it became clear to them that a heavy duty was safe in his hands, and they made it a point of honour to back him up by using every exertion.

It is not often that an officer of the Post Office has a successful encounter with a burglar, but such was Mr. Fisher's experience in the seventies. Whilst dining one evening a servant informed him that she could not gain access to his bedroom. Rushing upstairs he found the door fastened against him, and a noise going on within. Divining that a burglar was at work he ran downstairs and discovered that a man had just slipped down from the portico and made off. Mr. Fisher pursued him, followed by the maid servant—a black girl—and overtook the man at a distance of a street or two. On coming up with him the burglar attempted to deal his pursuer a murderous blow on the head with a short jemmy, but Mr. Fisher received the blow on the arm, and, closing with the man, bore him to the ground. As no policemen appeared on the scene, Mr. Fisher marched the man back again to the house. A rope was then procured and the man was bound fast hand and foot. The police were fetched, and, in the end, the burglar was sentenced to a long term of imprisonment.

Mr. Fisher was possessed of abundant means, and those who were fortunate to have the entrée to his weekly dinners on Thursday night were always charmed with the guests whom they met and with the hospitality which they received.

He was for many years a member of the Honourable Artillery Company of the City of London, and the training therein no doubt gave him that military bearing for which he was always remarkable. It also taught him the power of concentrating his Post Office forces, for in superintending the evening duties in the Circulation Branch he came to look upon his hundreds of sorters as a battalion, and would promptly draft them in units or tens from division to division when extra pressure at any point arose. Mr. Fisher was

liked by his subordinates at the office, to whom his kindliness of heart and generosity greatly endeared him. His declining years were spent at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. Harriss, at her pleasant home on Richmond Hill.

R. C. T.

The late Mr. Unwin.

JOHN WILLIAMS UNWIN, who bore the name of the heroic martyr of Erromango, came from East Anglia to London in August, 1864, as an extra clerk in the Savings Bank Department, and in the following year was placed on the Establishment as the result of a competitive examination in which Mr. Manson, of the



MR. J. W. UNWIN.

Money Order Office, and the late Mr. A. H. Bateman were also successful candidates. In his early official career, when extra duty was the rule of his office all the year round, Mr. Unwin was always ready to help, and proved himself an effective worker. When he rose to positions of responsibility and control his subordinates found him patient and courteous, and, being a good worker himself, he expected others to be equally industrious. In 1892, Mr. Unwin was selected to fill one of the newly created principal clerkships in the Savings Bank, and in the same year he was one of the small committee of inquiry into the correspondence duties of that Department, with a view to their simplification. A year or two later he was for some months in charge of the Ledger Branch during the

absence of the Sub-Controller. Subsequently his health was seriously affected, and he was obliged to take a long period of sick leave. He returned to his work in apparently renewed strength, but in June, 1899, the loss of his son, a brilliant young Oxford scholar, told upon him more than his friends suspected at the time, and last July he left the Savings Bank for ever. For months he submitted patiently to the increasing pain of the disease from which he suffered, and he died at his home in Clapham only a week or two after he had received an intimation that he had been pensioned. His last days were, to some extent, cheered by the kind terms of the Controller's letter telling him his pension had been arranged, and by the receipt of a numerously signed letter of sympathy from his former colleagues. His funeral at Norwood Cemetery, on the Friday following his death, was attended by many of his old friends.

For some years Mr. Unwin was an active Director of the Post Office Permanent Building Society, and did excellent service. He was a man of good business abilities who never allowed himself to be entangled in the meshes of red tape, and sympathised little with men who spend their time in looking for precedents instead of applying their powers to the treatment of the matter in hand. He did not wear his heart upon his sleeve, but those who knew him feel that his death has deprived them of a prudent, sincere, and warm-hearted friend.

J. A. J. H.

Bravery.

MR. L. E. B. HALCROW, clerk attached to the Controller of Telegraphs personal staff, London, has been presented with the certificate of the Royal Humane Society for prompt conduct in



MR. L. E. B. HALCROW.

rescuing a boy from drowning. A number of boys, amongst whom was Albert Massey, were bathing at the public bathing station, East Worthing, on Monday, the 13th August last, when Massey, who had got beyond his depth, was suddenly attacked with cramp. The

gravity of the situation was not realised by his mates until he had sunk twice ; but at this moment the attention of Mr. Halcrow, who was passing on the beach, was directed to the drowning lad. Quickly taking off his coat and waistcoat, Mr. Halcrow went to the lad's rescue and succeeded in bringing him to shore. Artificial respiration was resorted to and eventually the lad was brought round.

* * *

AT about 8.30 p.m. on the 27th July last, as Mr. Thomas Elston, town postman at Bradford, was passing over Bolton Bridge, which crosses the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, he noticed an elderly woman standing on the canal bank about 150 yards away behaving in rather a strange manner. She threw off a shawl she was wearing, and then deliberately jumped into the water.



MR. T. ELSTON.

Mr. Elston at once ran to the spot, and taking off his coat, plunged in and succeeded in dragging her to the side. Being connected with the Bradford Post Office branch of the St. John Ambulance Association, he was able to render first aid, after which he handed her over to the police.

On the 12th December the Mayor of Bradford presented Mr. Elston with a certificate on vellum from the Royal Humane Society, and warmly commended him for his gallant conduct.

* * *

ON the evening of Monday the 10th December last, an interesting event took place in the Council Chambers, Perth, where, in presence of the Lord Provost and Magistrates of the City, Mr. John Haggart, town postman, Perth, was presented with the certificate and bronze medal of the Royal Humane Society for saving life.

The circumstances were these :—On the 10th October last, a young girl threw herself into the River Tay, which was then in high flood.

Mr. Haggart, who happened to be near by, at once leapt into the river, and after considerable exertion and great risk he was successful in bringing the girl to a place of safety.

In making the presentation, Lord Provost MacGregor referred in terms of warm praise to Mr. Haggart's conduct, and handed to him, in addition to the Royal Humane Society's awards, a gold medal, which (in the words of the Lord Provost) might be called "the Victoria medal of valour of the City of Perth." Mr. Haggart thanked the Lord



MR. J. HAGGART.

Provost for the honour conferred upon him, and modestly claimed that in saving the girl's life he was only doing his duty. Mr. Thomas, Postmaster, who was also present, congratulated Mr. Haggart on behalf of the Perth staff.

Cambridge.

EXCELLENT work is being done amongst the telegraph messengers at Cambridge by the following gentlemen connected with the University, Messrs. Hindley (Christ's), Drew (Peterhouse), Roe (Pembroke), Hoare (Trinity), and Lea Wilson (Trinity), who have formed an Institute where the lads meet one night each week for two hours. A portion of the evening is spent in gymnastics, games and music, and the remainder is devoted to lectures upon religious and moral subjects. The Institute is well attended, and the lads eagerly look forward to the evening's entertainment. A Bible class, conducted by Mr. Hindley, is held each Sunday afternoon, and is also well attended.

It is intended to form a small seaside camp on the East Coast for the lads this summer, and with a view to raise the necessary funds a concert was organised by these gentlemen, together with the postal officials, and held in the Victoria Hall, Cambridge, on the 6th March. The hall was almost over-filled, and an excellent programme was provided. Messrs. Wood, Reeve, Williams, Darbyshire, Carmichael and Milner, gentlemen also connected with

the University, generously gave their services as artistes. The excellent violin playing of Mr. T. C. C. Wood was much appreciated, as were also the recitations of Messrs. Reeve and Wilson, and the numerous trios by Messrs. Hindley, Hoare, and Lea Wilson. Songs were also sung by Mr. Arcott (Chief Clerk, Cambridge Post Office), and Messrs. Clarke and Day of the Telegraph Department.

The lads, under their Inspector, ex-Sergt.-Major Craig, of the Imperial Yeomanry, who has lately returned from South Africa, gave an exhibition of physical drill, and some of them afterwards appeared with Messrs. Hindley and Hoare in an amusing sketch, written by the latter. The concert was in every respect a success, and the camp expenses are safely assured. F. W. W.

Birmingham and the War.

WHEN the mobilisation of the Reserve Forces took place in 1899, and through the length and breadth of the land funds were started for assisting those who were left without sufficient means of support, a meeting was called of the whole of the staff of the Birmingham Post Office, and it was decided then and there to open a fund for the benefit of the dependents of men drawn from the Birmingham Office. The various agencies at work in the city were informed of the decision, and asked to refer all cases of Post Office employes to the committee.

The work of organisation was at once commenced; and in a very short time sub-committees were formed, and a large number of collectors and visiting officers appointed. All grades, from the highest in the office to the telegraph messengers, were represented on the central committee. It will be seen that the fund has been most successful when it is stated that up to the 31st December last the subscriptions amounted to £680 18s. 2½d., and the disbursements to £374 14s. 8d. In addition to the fund, two ballots on behalf of the widows and children of two reservists who died whilst serving with the colours were successfully carried out. The first ballot (a "Kruger" sovereign) realised £110; the second (a Queen's chocolate box) £160. The amount of work entailed by these ballots will be better understood when it is stated that the tickets were sold at one penny each. Assistance for the families was also obtained from *The Daily Telegraph* and the Patriotic Funds.

It will be seen from the following figures that a large number of men have been drawn from the Birmingham Office to fight for Queen (and King) and Country:—

Reservists	...	...	...	...	104
Army Post Office Corps	...	...	...	...	10
Imperial Yeomanry	...	...	...	...	7
24th Middlesex	...	...	...	...	4
Total					125

The number of deaths up to the end of the year was three.

The success of the fund has no doubt been due to the hearty co-operation of the members, and to the unflagging exertions of the collectors. It would be invidious to particularise; suffice it to say that all who took part in the work showed by their enthusiasm a sincere desire to assist in every way the dependents of those members of the Birmingham Office who were called upon for service in South Africa.

B. C. B.

Subscriptions from Abroad.

UP to the time of going to press we have received the following subscriptions from readers abroad:—Zehlendorf, Christiania, Cologne, Malmo-Nassjo, Rangoon, Dinapore, Quetta, Cairo, Eudunda, Old Calabar (3), Ottawa (12), Brisbane (23), Sydney (28), Wellington, N.Z. (41), Natal (45); and 200 copies have been ordered from Cape Colony.

Answers to Correspondents.

C. V., *Dinapore*.—Thanks for remittance. Please note that subscription is 3s. per annum. We hope you will send an account of your experiences with the China Expeditionary Force.

H. H., *Brisbane*.—Your letter and Christmas card are to hand as we go to press. Many thanks for both. We venture to clip the following from your letter:—"Our Post and Telegraph Department expects to be absorbed in the Commonwealth as a Federal institution on the 1st of March. Our Queensland Postmaster-General has been appointed to the position of Federal Postmaster-General, and is at the time of writing in conference with the permanent heads of Departments in Melbourne."

Odds and Ends.

THE special thanks of the readers of *St. Martin's-le-Grand* are due to Miss Marie Corelli for placing in the Editor's hands the story which appears in our pages this month. The demands on Miss Corelli's time and labours are many and severe, but her interest in Post Office servants is great, and she readily and graciously offered to help us when the magazine was brought under her notice by Mr. Doonan, the Postmaster of Stratford-on-Avon.

* * *

WE regret that in publishing the picture of "Castle Baynard in the 17th Century," which appeared in our last number, we omitted to state that it is from a sketch drawn by Mr. C. James, of the Savings Bank Department. The initials of our own artist against the picture may have led our readers to think that our illustration was not a copy. Mr. James has done much good work, and the Savings Bank exhibit which won the Grand Prix at the Paris Exhibition was from his hands.

WE are glad to see that the *Aberdeen Post Office Magazine* is still prospering. The editor, in the last number, seems to resent the imputation made by us that the snippety snap is not popular among Scotchmen, who prefer long sermons. And he says when the editor of *St. Martin's-le-Grand* comes to Aberdeen he shall be convinced that the Scottish people possess humour. Our editor wishes to say that he does not need a long railway journey to be convinced on this point; he has daily evidence of the fact in his own household. But he can't retract the words about long sermons. And that is why the brightness and vivacity of the Magazine seems to him so encouraging.

* * *

MR. DURDEN, the Postmaster of Swindon, sends us an account of the career of Mr. Morse, a Swindon postman, who has just retired at the age of 62. For the last forty years Mr. Morse has risen every morning at 4.30 a.m., winter and summer alike, and a calculation of the distance he has travelled shows it to be 220,000 miles, or nine times round the globe. Mr. Morse, who was known everywhere as "the Purton postman," will be missed by hundreds on a beat which has become associated with him.

* * *

MR. T. F. BING has recently been promoted from the postmastership of Chepstow to that of Braintree, and his old staff, with whom he worked nine years, have presented him with a handsome clock, combining thermometer and barometer, and an illuminated address.

* * *

OUR good friend Mr. W. H. Ferens, of Dunedin, New Zealand, sends us copies of the *Otago Daily Times*, containing speeches of the New Zealand Postmaster-General on the Universal Penny Postage Scheme, together with a penny stamp, one of the first issue sold at Dunedin on the morning of the 1st January. We thank him heartily, and shall have more to say on the postal doings of New Zealand in another issue.

* * *

MR. W. TAYLOR, J.P., who was appointed to the postmastership of Stoke-on-Trent four years ago, has been promoted to Dundee, in the room of Mr. Bryson, who has retired under the age limit. Before crossing the border, Mr. Taylor was the recipient, at the hands of the staff in the Stoke district, of a dinner and a dessert service, and an illuminated address.

[NOTE.—It should be clearly understood that these lists are unofficial ; but every effort is, of course, made to render them accurate and complete.]

Promotions.

LONDON.

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
S.O.	Jones, C. H. ...	3rd Cl. Clk., Supply Est.	Clk., 2nd Div., S.B., '96 ; Clk., R.L.O., '00
"	O'Donnell, J. J.	" "	Sr., Cir. Off., '97 ; Clk., C.O., L.P.S., '00
"	Stratford, W. E.	" "	Clk., 2nd Div., A.G.D., '98 ; Clk., P.S.D., '00
"	Whitehurst, C.W.	Trav. Clk., 2nd Cl., C.E.B.	Clk., 2nd Div., S.B., '91 ; Clk., C.E.B., '94
A.G.D., C.H.B.	Miss M. A. Bell	Clk., 1st Cl.	1886
C.T.O.	Jelf, J. F.	Asst. Cont.	E.T. Co., '60 ; G.P.O., '70 ; Super., '81 ; Clk., 1st Cl., '94 ; Prin. Clk., '97
"	Headland, R. ...	"	E.T. Co., '65 ; G.P.O., '70 ; Super., '86 ; Clk., 1st Cl., '94
"	Didden, F. P. ...	Clk., 1st Cl., C.O...	Tel., '74 ; Super., '90 ; Clk., 2nd Cl., C.O., '94
"	Halcrow, L.E.B.	Clk., 2nd Cl....	Tel., '72 ; Clk., 3rd Cl., C.O., '94
"	Mitchell, C. H...	Asst. Super., 2nd Cl.	1874 ; Sen. Tel., '95
"	Butler, W. H. ...	" "	1874 ; Sen. Tel., '95
"	Gordon, A.	Over. and Sen. Tel.	1875
"	Good, A. T.	" "	1876
"	Murdock, G. W.	" "	1876
"	Channing, E. ...	" "	1878
"	Bray, F. A.	" "	1877
"	Townsend, C. ...	" "	1875
"	Davies, J. G. ...	" "	1877
E. in C.O. ...	Wood, E. J. ...	Engr., 1st Cl. ...	Tel., C.T.O., '80 ; Junr. Clk., E. in C.O., '86 ; Engr., '95
"	Smith, W. W. ...	" 2nd Cl. ...	Tel., L'pool, '79 ; Relay Clk., E. in C.O., '95
"	Hammond, E. J.	" "	Tel., Shewsbury, '87 ; Relay Clk., E. in C.O., '95
"	Lever, G.	" "	3rd Offr. "Monarch," '91 ; Ch. Offr. "Alert," '93
"	Platt, W.	Sub.-Engr.	S.C.&T., Hull, '89 ; Jr. Clk., E. in C.O., '93
"	Phillips, A. C. ...	"	1895
"	West, G. E.	"	1808
"	Lockhart, J. ...	"	S.C. & T., Glasgow, '88 ; Jr. Clk., E. in C.O., '09

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
E. in C.O. ...	Peake, H. F. ...	Relay Clk. ...	S.C. & T., Norwich, '89
" ...	Atkins, F. ...	Junr. Clk. (Provs.)	S.C. & T., S. Shields, '93
" ...	Pestell, G. ...	" " ...	S.C. & T., Oxford, '83
" ...	Balcombe, W. O. ...	" " ...	S.C. & T., Cardiff, '88
" ...	Morgan, J. A. ...	" " ...	S.C. & T., Bristol, '89
" ...	Heys, E. ...	" " ...	S.C. & T., Bristol, '89
" ...	Farr, A. K. ...	" " ...	S.C. & T., Crawley, '90 ; Woolwich, '91
" ...	Foster, H. ...	" " ...	S.C. & T., Cardiff, '90
" ...	Calverley, W. H. ...	" " ...	S.C. & T., Dublin, '91
" ...	Rattue, A. ...	" " ...	S.C. & T., Bristol, '93
" ...	Lock, F. ...	" " ...	S.C. & T., Bristol, '93
" ...	Ray, J. W. ...	" " ...	S.C. & T., N. Shields, '93 ; Cockermouth, '96
" ...	Broadbridge, A. J. W. ...	Ch. Nav. Offr. "Alert"	3rd Offr., '92 ; 2nd Offr. "Monarch," '93
" ...	Bourdeaux, H. F. ...	2nd Offr. "Monarch"	3rd Offr., '94
L.P.S., C.O. ...	Whitley, R. C. ...	Clk., 3rd Cl. ...	Clk., 2nd Div., S.B., '98
" " ...	Crutchett, F. W. ...	Insp. ...	Sr., '85 ; Over., '92
" " ...	Stewart, C. ...	Over. ...	1880 ; Sr., '84 ; Wtg. Asst., '90
" Cir. Off. ...	Bailey, T. P. ...	Insp. ...	1873 ; Sr., '76 ; Over., '92
" " ...	Paine, E. J. ...	" ...	1874 ; Sr., '77 ; Over., '93
" " ...	Baker, J. W. B. ...	Over. ...	1877 ; Sr., '81
" " ...	Auvache, A. C. ...	" ...	1877 ; Sr., '81
" " ...	Gosling, T. G. ...	" ...	1877 ; Sr., '81
" " ...	Jeffery, G. ...	" ...	1877 ; Sr., '81
" " ...	Twelftree, S. ...	" ...	1863 ; Lobby Offr., '92
L.P.S., E.C. ...	Law, C. ...	Insp. in Charge ...	1869 ; Tel., '70 ; Super., '90
" " ...	Russell, F. ...	" " ...	1871 ; Super., '91
" " ...	Morley, P. H. ...	Over. and Sen. Tel.	1872 ; Sr., '77 ; C.C. & T., '79
" " ...	Miss E. H. Ulyatt	Super., 2nd Cl. ...	1874 ; Super., 4th Cl., '94 ; 3rd Cl., '97
" " ...	" E. M. Bayliffe	" 3rd Cl. ...	1876 ; Super., 4th Cl., '97
" " ...	" L. L. West ...	" 4th Cl. ...	1882
" W.C. ...	Hawes, G. R. ...	Over. ...	1879 ; Sr., '84
" S.E. ...	Haynes, T. ...	Asst. Super. ...	1863 ; Over., '80 ; Insp., '89
" " ...	Johnson, H. ...	Insp. ...	1874 ; Over., '82
" " ...	Saltrick, G. J. ...	" ...	1871 ; Wtg. Asst., '80 ; Over., '83
" " ...	Fuggle, G. I. ...	Insp. in Charge ...	1871 ; Sen. Tel., '96
" S.W. ...	Stuart, J. ...	Over. and Sen. Tel.	1875
" " ...	Perry, W. J. ...	Over. ...	Pn., '76 ; Hd. Pn., '98
" " ...	Mrs. S. Harlock	Super., 4th Cl. ...	1834
" W. ...	Smalley, S. ...	Insp. ...	1869 ; Sr., '74 ; Over.
" Padd. ...	Hannaford, H. G. ...	Over. ...	1881 ; Sr., '84
" " ...	Christmas, D. ...	" ...	Pn., '77 ; Hd. Pn., '90
" " ...	Baxter, D. H. ...	" ...	Pn., '76 ; Lobby Offr., '91
" N.W. ...	Pitt, W. C. ...	" ...	1880 ; Sr., '84
M.O.O. ...	Bailey, H. H. ...	Clk., 3rd Cl. ...	Boy Clk., S.O., '94 ; Clk., 2nd Div., A.G.D., '98

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
M.O.O.	Jay, J. W. ...	Clk., 3rd Cl. ...	Clk., 2nd Div., A.G.D., '98
"	Bruce, E. H. ...	" " ...	Boy Clk., War Off., '94 ; Clk., 2nd Div., S.B., '97
"	Hamer, W. S. ...	" " ...	Boy Clk., S.O., '95 ; Clk., 2nd Div., S.B., '98
"	Warlow, G. H. ...	" " ...	Sr., Cir. Off., L.P.S., '93
"	Dodsworth, G. W. W.	" " ...	Sr., S.E., L.P.S., '94
P.S.D.	Cook, W. M. ...	Clk. ...	Clk., 2nd Div., S.B., '93 ; Jr. Clk., P.S.D., '95
"	White, L. C. ...	Jr. Clk. ...	Boy Clk., War Off., '96 ; Clk., 2nd Div., S.B., '98
"	Green, P. ...	" ...	Clk., 2nd Div., S.B., '98
"	Baskerville, J. W.	" ...	Boy Clk., War Off., '95 ; Clk., 2nd Div., S.B., '97
"	Gould, G. H. A.	" ...	Clk., 2nd Div., S.B., '98
"	Chiddick, W. W.	" ...	Sr., L.P.S., Cir. Off., '95
"	Appleby, S. C. ...	" ...	Boy Clk., Bd. of Agri., '95 ; Clk., 2nd Div., S.B., '97
"	Shervill, W. P. ...	" ...	Boy Clk., S.B., '95 ; Clk., 2nd Div., '97
Sur. Dept. ...	Hamilton, J. G.	Asst. Sur., 1st Cl. ...	Clk., R.A.G.O., '71 ; Sur. Clk., '92
"	Grierson, W. W.	" 2nd Cl. ...	Clk., 2nd Div., S.B., '92 ; Clk., S.O., '95

PROVINCES—ENGLAND and WALES.

Bedford	Drabble, E. ...	Asst. Super. ...	1883 ; Clk., '95
"	Martin, J. ...	Clk. ...	1885
Beverley	Whitton, J. ...	" ...	Tel., Hull, '80
Birmingham ...	Buswell, R. J. ...	" (P.) ...	1883
Bradford	Greening, C. A.	" " ...	1882
Bridgewater ...	Hall, W. ...	Asst. Super. ...	1872 ; S.C. & T., '73 ; Clk., '91
"	Hornsby, W. ...	Clk. ...	1880
Burton-on-Trent	Miss M. E. Sanders	Asst. Super. ...	1887
Cardiff	Mills, W. ...	Clk. ...	S.C. & T., Gloucester, '85
"	Mrs. K. Smith ...	Asst. Super. ...	1886
Cirencester ...	Brooke, V. ...	Clk. ...	S.C. & T., Malvern, '85 ; Cirencester, '00
Eastbourne ...	Miss M. Saxen ...	Asst. Super. ...	1894
Hereford	Scott, J. ...	" " ...	1874 ; S.C. & T., '79 ; Clk., '91
Hull	Wells, W. H. ...	Clk. (T.) ...	U.K.T. Co., '66 ; Tel., Hull, '70

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
Leeds	Gracey, J.... ..	Ch. Clk.... ..	1873; Clk., '82; Asst. Super., 2nd Cl., '86; 1st Cl., '90; Super. (P.), Liverpool, '95
"	Peel, W.	Asst. Super., 2nd Cl. (T.)	E.T. Co., '66; Tel., Leeds, '70; Clk., '91
"	Gill, W. H.	Clk.	1872
Liverpool	Ismay, J.	Ch. Clk.... ..	U.K.T. Co., '61; G.P.O., '70; Super., '90; Ch. Super. (T.), '93
"	Hatton, W. J.... ..	Super. (P.)	S.C. & T., Lancaster, '68; Liverpool, '70; Clk. (P.), '83; Asst. Super., 2nd Cl., '90; 1st Cl., '93
"	Stafford, M.	" " " "	S.C. & T., Limerick, '72; Liverpool, '73; Clk. (P.), '85; Asst. Super., 2nd Cl., '92; 1st Cl., '93
"	Forsyth, J. B.	Asst. Super., 1st Cl. (P.)	S.C. & T., Whitehaven, '67; Liverpool, '71; Clk. (P.), '85; Asst. Super., 2nd Cl., '94
"	Tomlinson, W.... ..	" " " "	1874; Clk. (P.), '90; Asst. Super., 2nd Cl., '94
"	Munce, J. S.	" " " "	Tel., Drogheda, '72; Stg. Clk., Liverpool, '73; Clk. (P.), '88; Asst. Super., 2nd Cl., '96
"	Alston, H.... ..	" " " "	1865; Clk. (P.), '89; Asst. Super., 2nd Cl., '97
"	Gutteridge, T. C.	Asst. Super., 2nd Cl. (P.)	Tel., '70; Stg. Clk., '81; Clk. (P.), '87
"	Evans, W. H.	" " " "	1874; Clk. (P.), '91
"	Brown, R.... ..	" " " "	1878; Clk. (P.), '92
"	Laidlaw, W. T. P.	" " " "	1878; Clk. (P.), '93
"	Ellis, W. H.	Clk. (P.)	1881
"	Barrow, T. H.... ..	" " " "	1882
"	Sparks, B.... ..	" " " "	1878; S.C. & T., '82
"	Lovell, W.... ..	" " " "	1874; S.C. & T., '82
"	Youdale, W. R.	" " " "	1882
"	White, T. A.	" " " "	1882
"	Howell, T. J.	" " " "	1882
"	Tomlinson, R.... ..	" " " "	Kendal, '80; L'pool, '82
"	Lindsay, G. I.	" " " "	1882
"	Hinton, T.	" " " "	1883
"	Hindle, W.	" " " "	1883
"	Fisher, R.... ..	" " " "	1884
"	Bunney, C.	" " " "	1884
"	Howlett, T.	Asst. Super., 1st Cl. (T.)	1871; Clk., T., '86; Asst. Super., '90

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
Liverpool	Steel, G. ...	Asst. Super., 1st Cl. (T.)	M.T. Co., '64; G.P.O., '70; Clk. T., '88; Asst. Super., '90
"	Johnson, A. R...	" 2nd Cl. (T.)	1871; Clk., T., '97
"	McLennan, D....	" " "	E.T. Co., '59; G.P.O., Greenock, '70; L'pool, '72; Clk., T., '90
"	Paine, E. T. ...	" " "	1872; Clk., T., '90
"	Boyd, W.	" " "	1872; Clk., T., '97
"	Maddox, J. R....	" " "	1874; Clk., T., '97
"	Lawson, L.	Clk. (T.) ...	1872
"	Merchant, W. B.	" ...	1872
"	Hall, J.	" ...	1871
"	Culligan, J. ...	" ...	1871
"	Whamond, J. ...	" ...	1873
"	Smith, H. W. C.	" ...	1874
"	Snodgrass, F. W.	" ...	1874
"	Jenkins, C. ...	" ...	1875
"	Spearman, E. A.	" ...	1875
"	Cathrall, J. ...	" ...	1875
"	Sephton, T. H...	" ...	1876
"	Webster, A. B...	" ...	1876
"	Webster, G. T...	" ...	1878
"	Shannon, T. J...	" ...	1879
"	Jefferies, H. C...	" ...	1879
"	Sharp, A....	" ...	1879
"	McConchie, W.	" ...	1880
"	Miss E. A.	Asst. Super. (T.)...	1874
"	Edmondson	"	"
"	" M. Jones...	" " "	1875
"	" C. H.	" " "	1875
"	Hannah	"	"
Luton	Berrett, W. F....	Ch. Clk....	1883; Clk., '91
"	Bazley, J....	Clk. ...	1887
Manchester	Garnett, H. ...	Super. (T.) ...	M.T. Co., '58; G.P.O., '70; Clk., '84; Asst. Super., '90
"	Taylor, J. F. ...	Asst. Super., 1st Cl. (T.)	M.T. Co., '65; G.P.O., '70; Clk., '90; Asst. Super., '96
"	Carmichael, F.A.	" 2nd Cl. "	1877; Clk., '97
"	Dain, W. ...	Clk. (T.) ...	1881
"	Miss A. Grant ...	Super. ...	1874
"	" J. A. Barlow	" ...	1874; Asst. Super., '87
"	" M. A.	" ...	1878; Asst. Super., '94
"	Crockford	"	"
"	" A. E. Jacob	" ...	1879; Asst. Super., '94
"	" L. Mills ...	" ...	1879; Asst. Super., '94
"	Mrs. F. Sugden	" ...	1883; Asst. Super., '94
"	Miss E. Mellor...	" ...	1883; Asst. Super., '94
Newcastle-on-Tyne	Edwards, J. H...	Clk. (T.) ...	Tel., Ruabon, '70; Newc'le, '76
Nottingham	Payne, W. ...	Insp.-in-charge.	S.C. & T., '86; Asst. Insp., '89; Insp., '97
"	Rainbow, R. W.	Insp. of Pn. ...	S.C. & T., 1892; Asst. Insp., '94

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
Pontypridd ..	Jones, J.	Clk.	1890
Portsmouth ...	Walker, J.	Clk. (T.)	1882
" ..	Miss E. M. White	Asst. Super.	1893
Stoke-on-Trent	Pennington, J....	Clk. (P.)	1882
" ..	Hardwicke, H. J.	"	1882
" ..	Done, G. E. ...	"	1882
Stratford-on-Avon	Duncombe, W....	Clk.	S.C. & T., Leamington Spa, '85
Sunderland ..	Snowball, T. T.	Asst. Super. (P.) ...	1879; Clk., '00
" ..	Crick, J. S. ...	" (T.)	1873; Clk., '93
Swansea	Howells, J. ...	Ch. Clk.... ...	1882; Asst. Super., '92
Warrington ..	Jones, H. C. ...	Asst. Super.	1880; Clk., '87
Woolwich ...	Barkway, W. C.	Clk... ..	1883

IRELAND.

Dublin, S.O. ...	Coonan, J. J. ...	Prin. Clk.	Clk., 2nd Div., S.B., '84; A.O., Dub., '85; S.O., '86; 1st Cl. Clk., '95
" A.O. ...	McMahon, J. ...	Exr.	Clk., 2nd Div., '82; Hr. Gr., '92; Cashier, '97; Book-Kr., '98
" Stg Off.	Forsythe, S. G.	Super.	S.C. & T., Limerick, '84; Head Sta. Clk., '94
" "	Tipping, H. J....	"	Clk., 2nd Div., S.B., '85; Clk., L.P.S., '94

SCOTLAND.

Edinburgh, Stg. Off.	Currier, H. W....	Asst. Super., 1st Cl.	1871; Over., '91; Asst. Super., '92
" "	Forster, W. ...	" " 2nd Cl.	1876; Clk., '94
" "	Craig, R. ...	Clk.	1879
Glasgow	McLardy, A. J.	" (T.)	1878
Greenock... ..	Cameron, A. ...	" (P.)	1879; S.C. & T., '82
Kilmarnock ...	Brown, A. A. ...	"	1880

Retirements.

LONDON.

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
A.G.D.	Cardin, J.J.,C.B.	Comptroller and Acct. General	Clk., 3rd Cl., '59; 2nd Cl., '72; 1st Cl., '73; Prin. Clk., '77; Prin. Book-kr., '77; Asst. R. & A.G., '82; R. & A.G., '86; C. & A.G., '97
" C.H.B.	Miss A. L. Williams	Clk., 1st Cl.	1880; 1st Cl., '90
" P.O.B.	" E. H. Leresche	" 2nd Cl.	1884
C.T.O.	Sayer, T.	Asst. Super., 2nd Cl.	M. T. Co., '57; G.P.O., '70; Sen. Tel., '81; Asst. Super., '91
"	Robson, W. H...	" "	U.K.T. Co., '67; G.P.O., '70; Sen. Tel., '86; Asst. Super., '93
"	Hunt, A.	Tel.	1880
"	Clegg, A. E. ...	"	Ormskirk, '87; C.T.O., '91
"	*Hill, T. B. ...	"	1892
"	*Woodrow, A. C.	"	1894
"	Miss M.H. Greer	Matron	E.T. Co., '54; G.P.O., '70; Prin. Clk., '71; Super., '81; Matron, '96
"	" J. Bloomfield	Asst. Super.	1870; Asst. Super., '90
"	" C. R. Coxhead	Tel.	1874
"	" J. A. Williams	"	1876
L.P.S., Cont.'s Off.	Penney, R. ...	Insp.	1860; Sr., '63; Over., '80; Insp., '86
" Cir. Off.	Baucutt, W. ...	"	1862; Sr., '66; Over., '80; Insp., '97
" "	Illing, W.	Sr.	1860; Sr., '62
" "	Coppen, J. J. W.	"	1876; Sr., '79
" "	Andrews, J. R...	"	1868; Sr., '86
" "	McLeod, H. N...	"	Plymouth, '88; C.O., '91
" "	*Stone, W. H. ...	"	1892
" "	*McPherson, D...	"	1897
" "	*Brewer, A. T. J.	"	1897; Sr., '99
" E.C.	Miss E. V. Lean	Super., 2nd Cl. ...	1870; Asst. Super., '85; 2nd Cl., '94
" S.E.	Read, G. E. ...	Sr.	1890
" N.W.	Blackborow, H.	Over.	1860; Lobby Offr., '85; Over., '94
" "	Miss E. M. Pease	C.C. & T.	1877

* Awarded a Gratuity.

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
L.P.S., S.W. ...	Miss E. J. Clinker	C.C. & T. ...	1887
M.O.O. ...	Crookshank, W. H. F.	Clk., 2nd Div., Hr. Gr.	1865; Hr. Gr., '92
R.L.O. ...	Hay, J. R. ...	Prin. Clk. ...	Clk., M.O.O., '57; Cir. Off., '60; R.L.O., '67; Exr., 2nd Cl., '76; 1st Cl., '84; Prin. Clk., '93
" ...	Miss M. E. Straker	Returner ...	Tavistock, '87; R.L.O., '98
S.B.D. ...	Unwin, J. W. ...	Prin. Clk. ...	Clk., '64; 2nd Cl., '73; 1st Cl., '75; Prin. Clk., '92
" ...	Hillier, C. T. ...	Clk., 1st Cl. ...	1869; 1st Cl., '95
" ...	Sayer, H. V. ...	" 2nd Div. ...	Boy Clk., I.R., '81; Clk., S.B., '82
" ...	Miss A. Owen ...	" 2nd Cl. ...	1889
" ...	" N. E. Woodford	" " ...	C.C. & T., E.C., '86; Clk., S.B., '90
" ...	* " H. T. Hocken	Sr. ...	1892

PROVINCES—ENGLAND and WALES.

Birmingham ...	Perry, H. T. ...	S.C. & T. ...	1885
Blackburn ...	McCarthy, J. J. ...	" ...	1887
Boston ...	Jarvis, E. ...	" ...	1871
Cambridge ...	Ellis, S. ...	Super. ...	1860; Clk., '73; Asst. Super., '91; Super., '98
Carlisle ...	Longmire, R. ...	S.C. & T. ...	1867; S.C. & T., '70
Chester ...	Caswall, G. ...	Pmr. ...	Clk., Norwich, '59; Sur. Sta. Clk., '66; Sur. Clk., '70; Pmr., Chester, '77
" ...	Ambridge, J. W. ...	Asst. Super. ...	E.T. Co., '54; G.P.O., Stoke-on-Trent, '70; Chester, '74; Clk., '81; Asst. Super., '91
Chippenham ...	*Curtis, W. G. ...	S.C. & T. ...	1897
Derby ...	Macconnell, T. H. ...	Super. (P.) ...	1867; Clk., '78; Asst. Super., '93; Super., '98
Dover ...	*Warren, E. P. ...	S.C. & T. ...	1892
Gillingham ...	Mrs. A. Samways	Pms. ...	1898
Jersey ...	Shaw, H. W. ...	S.C. & T. ...	Sub. Tel. Co., '80; G.P.O., '89
" ...	Le Sueur, F. C. ...	" ...	1881
Lincoln ...	Sanderson, C. ...	" ...	1859; S.C. & T., '89
Liverpool ...	Miss E. J. Paterson	" ...	1883
Manchester ...	Swettenham, T. ...	Clk. (P.) ...	1867; Clk., '93
" ...	Davies, W. ...	S.C. & T. ...	1870
" ...	Brickles, J. W. ...	" ...	1872

* Awarded a Gratuity.

RETIREMENTS.

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
Manchester ...	Upjohn, W. ...	S.C. & T. ...	1890
„ ...	•Wills, C. H. ...	„ ...	1897
„ ...	•Saunders, J. F. ...	„ ...	1899
Portsmouth ...	Barham, F. J. ...	Clk. (T.) ...	1878; Clk., '98
„ ...	•Miss A. R. Fowler ...	S.C. & T. ...	1894
Stamford... ..	Canham, J. D....	Pmr. ...	Clk., '58; Ch. Clk., Cambridge, '88; Pmr., Stamford, '89
Ventnor	Dauncey, A. E. ...	S.C. & T. ...	C.T.O., '87; Ventnor, '98
Wokingham ...	Deen, D. ...	Pmr. ...	1863; Sr., '67; Over., L.P.S., '81; Pmr., Wokingham, '96

IRELAND.

Dublin, A.O. ...	Orchard, E. ...	Exr. ...	Boy Clk., S.B., '72; Clk., 3rd Cl., '75; A.G.D., '75; Hr. Gr., '75; Exr., A.O., Dublin, '07
„	Long, J. ...	S.C. & T. ...	1861; Sr., '71
„	Byrne, D. J. B.	„ ...	1890

SCOTLAND.

Aberdeen ...	•Gallow, E. C. ...	S.C. & T. ...	1895
Dundee ...	•Trail, D. ...	„ ...	1900
Edinburgh ...	Armstrong, T. ...	Asst. Super., 1st Cl. (P.)	M.T. Co., '56; G.P.O., '70; Edin., '72; Clk., '81; Asst. Super., 2nd Cl., '01; 1st Cl., '97
Hamilton ...	Bell, J. ...	Pmr. ...	Clk., '55; Pmr., '59
Inverness ...	Cruickshanks, D. H.	S.C. & T. ...	1886
Stornoway ...	•Miss A. F. Finlayson	„ ...	Portree, '96; Stornoway, '99

• Awarded a Gratuity.

Deaths.

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	SERVICE.
A.G.D.	Lochner, J. W. J.	Clk., 2nd Div. ...	Boy Clk., S.B., '83; Clk., 2nd Div., A.G.D., '86
C.T.O.	Pain, T.	Over. & Sen. Tel...	1870; Sen. Tel., '85
"	Walklin, W. ...	Tel.	1881
"	Bennell, A. C. P.	"	1883
"	Croxon, J. C. ...	"	Sub. Tel. Co., '71 C.T.O., '89
"	*Walton, B. ...	"	Grantham, '85; C.T.O., '90
L.P.S., Cir. Off.	Coker, W. V. ...	Sr.	1877; Sr., '81
"	Nicholson, G. E.	"	1877; Sr., '81
"	*Amery, T. R. ...	"	1882; Sr., '92
"	W.C. Hildyard, A. M.	Insp., Lr. Sec. ..	L.P.T. Co., '64; G.P.O., '70; Insp., '89
"	Potter, J. S. ...	Over. & Sen. Tel...	E.T. Co., '63; G.P.O., '70; Sen. Tel., 89
"	Brimley, J. T. ...	Sr.	1884; Sr., '87
"	E. Davey, J. W. P.	"	1890; Sr., '93
"	S.E. *Fieldwick, T. ...	Over.	1876; Sr., '80; Over., '93
"	Mrs. L. A. Fisher	C.C. & T.	1873
"	Padd Hadaway, A. E.	Over. & Sen. Tel...	1875; Sen. Tel., '99
"	Rosewarm, F. A.	Sr.	1886; Sr., '92
"	N. Wainwright, J.	"	1876; Sr., '80
"	S.W. Wood, J. N. ...	"	1898
"	W. Hillier, A. C. ...	"	1872; Sr., '74
Bath	*Simpkins, G. ...	S.C. & T.	1886
Bradford... ..	Breaks, H. ...	Clk. (P.)	1874; Clk., '91
Chepstow	Phillips, H. ...	S.C. & T.	1885
Chester	Jones, J. ...	Super. (T.)	E.T. Co., '57; G.P.O., '70
Leeds	Worswick, A. H.	S.C. & T.	1886
Liverpool	James, R.	Ch. Clk.	1859; Clk., '63; Asst. Super., '81; Super., '90; Ch. Super., '93; Ch. Clk., '97
"	Dixon, R. W. ...	Asst. Super., 2nd Cl. (T.)	1872; Clk., '95; Asst. Super., '99
Manchester	Dickinson, G. ...	Insp. of Pn.	1873; Asst. Insp., '86; Insp., '95
Nottingham	Toplis, J. T. ...	S.C. & T.	1882
Portsmouth	Langer, E. C. ...	"	1880; S.C. & T., '92
Reading	Atkinson, W. H.	"	1881
Dublin, S.O.	Godden, H. A. .	Prin. Clk.	Census Off., Dublin, '61; A.O., '63; S.O., '66; Clk., 1st Cl., '74; Prin. Clk., '95
Portadown	Gordon, R. F. ...	S.C. & T.	1897
Dundee	Nicoll, D. R. ...	Clk. (T.)	1871; Clk., '91
Edinburgh	Miss M. J. Turner	Tel.	1890
Glasgow	Petrie, H. E. ...	S.C. & T.	Aberdeen, '82; Glasgow, '85
Greenock	Kerr, A. A. ...	"	1887
Inverness	*Mackintosh, A. R. F.	"	1894

* Died of enteric while serving with the colours in South Africa.

Postmasters Appointed.

OFFICE.	NAME.	PREVIOUS APPOINTMENTS.
Abingdon	Mylles, A. T. ...	S.C. & T., Dundee ; Sur. Sta. Clk. ; Asst. Hd. Sta. Clk.
Braintree	Bing, T. F. ...	S.C. & T., Clk., Canterbury ; Pmr., Chepstow
Buckingham	Holmes, T. ...	S.C. & T., Clk., Scarborough
Bury St. Edmunds ...	Learmont, J. R. ...	Pn., Sr., Edin. ; Pmr., Crieff, Dunfermline
Chester	Cartlidge, T. ...	S.C. & T., Clk., Ch. Clk., Leeds
Dartmouth	Walker, J. C. ...	E.T. Co., Telst., Milford Haven ; Pmr., Exmouth
Dorking	Redfern, A. ...	S.C. & T., Clk., Ch. Clk., Crewe
Eastbourne... ..	Oakey, H. R. ...	S.C. & T., Gloucester ; Clk., Wor- cester ; Clk., S.O. ; Pmr., Banbury, Bridgwater, Hereford
Exmouth	Duff, W. F....	E.T. Co., Tel., Plymouth ; Pmr., Launceston, Dartmouth
Gainsborough	Carter, J. W. ...	E.T. Co., S.C. & T., Clk., Coventry ; Pmr., Royston
Lutterworth	Christie, G. ...	S.C. & T., Runcorn
Maidenhead	Radbourne, J. H.	S.C. & T., Clk., Asst. Super., Ch. Clk., Reading
Midhurst	Marshall, G....	S.C. & T., Leeds
Neath	Coombes, H. ...	S.C. & T., Clk., Asst. Super., Super., Ch. Clk., Southampton
Newport, Salop... ..	Levett, A. ...	Tel., Brighton ; Tel., Sen. Tel., C.T.O.
Pembroke Dock... ..	Wood, F. ...	E.T. Co., Tel., Exeter ; Pmr., Launceston, Tring
Pwllheli	Jones, E. S....	C.C. & T., L.P.S.
Runcorn	Bennett, W....	S.C. & T., Clk., Asst. Super., Warrington
Sherborne	Langman, J. ...	E.T. Co., S.C. & T., Clk., Ch. Clk., Carmarthen
Sidmouth	Grigg, F. E....	Tel., Plymouth ; Pmr., Esher
Stamford	Cooper, A. J. ...	E.T. Co., S.C. & T., Clk. (T.), Norwich ; Insp. Tel. E. District
Torquay	Edwards, W. H....	E.T. Co., Clk., Asst. Super., Bristol ; Pmr., Newbury
Walsall	Knight, F. H. ...	E.T. Co., Clk., Oxford ; Pmr., Stourbridge, Hawkhurst, Bury St. Edmunds
Listowel	Mrs. M. J. Peacocke	Sub-Pms., Roundstone
Campbeltown	McKenzie, J. ...	S.C. & T., Peterhead ; Pmr., Lochmaddy, Portree
Dunblane	Donaldson, W. ...	S.C. & T., Crieff, Birmingham
Inverary	Rose, J. H. ...	S.C. & T.
Irvine	Patrick, R. C. ...	S.C. & T., Clk., Kilmarnock
Melrose	Wood, W. P. ...	Pn., S.C. & T., Devonport ; Sr., Cir. Off.

ABBREVIATIONS.

Acct., Accountant; Asst., Assistant; C.C. & T., Counter Clerk and Telegraphist; Ch., Chief; Cl., Class; Clk., Clerk; Cont., Controller; Div., Division; Engr., Engineer; Exr., Examiner; Gr., Grade; Hd., Head; Hr., Higher; Insp., Inspector; Jr., Junior; Lr., Lower; Offr., Officer; Over., Overseer; P., Postal; Pn., Postman; Pmr., Postmaster; Pms., Postmistress; Pr.-Kr., Paper-keeper; Prin., Principal; Prob., Probationary; Prov., Province; Retr., Returner; Sec., Secretary; Sen., Senior; S.C. & T., Sorting Clerk and Telegraphist; Sr., Sorter; Stg., Sorting; Sta., Stationary; Supply., Supplementary; Sur., Surveyor; Super., Superintendent or Supervisor; Tech., Technical; Tel., Telegraphist; Temp., Temporary; Tr., Tracer; Wtg., Writing.

St. Martin's-le-Grand.

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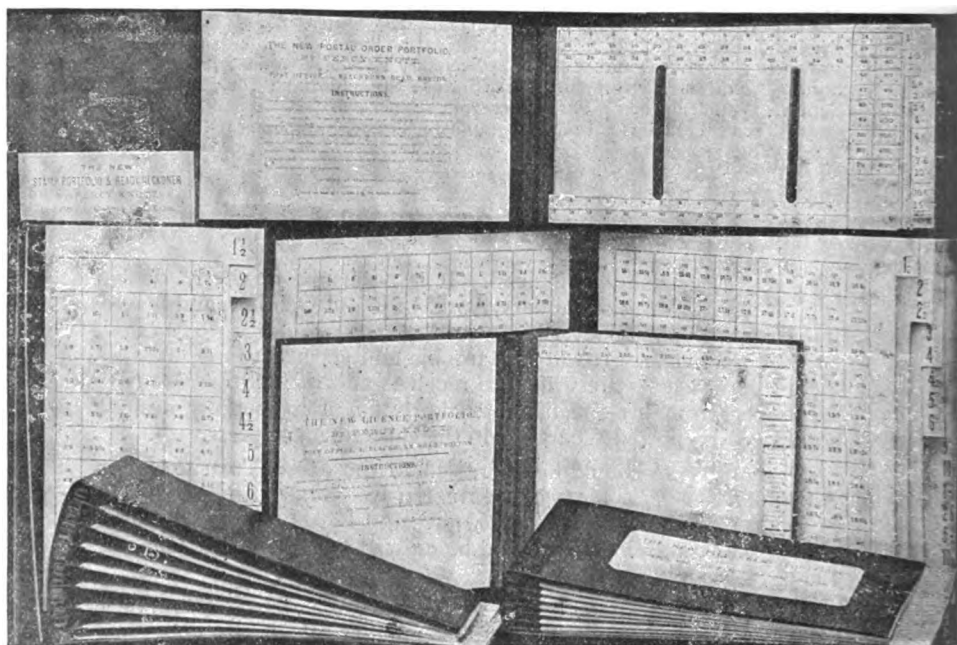
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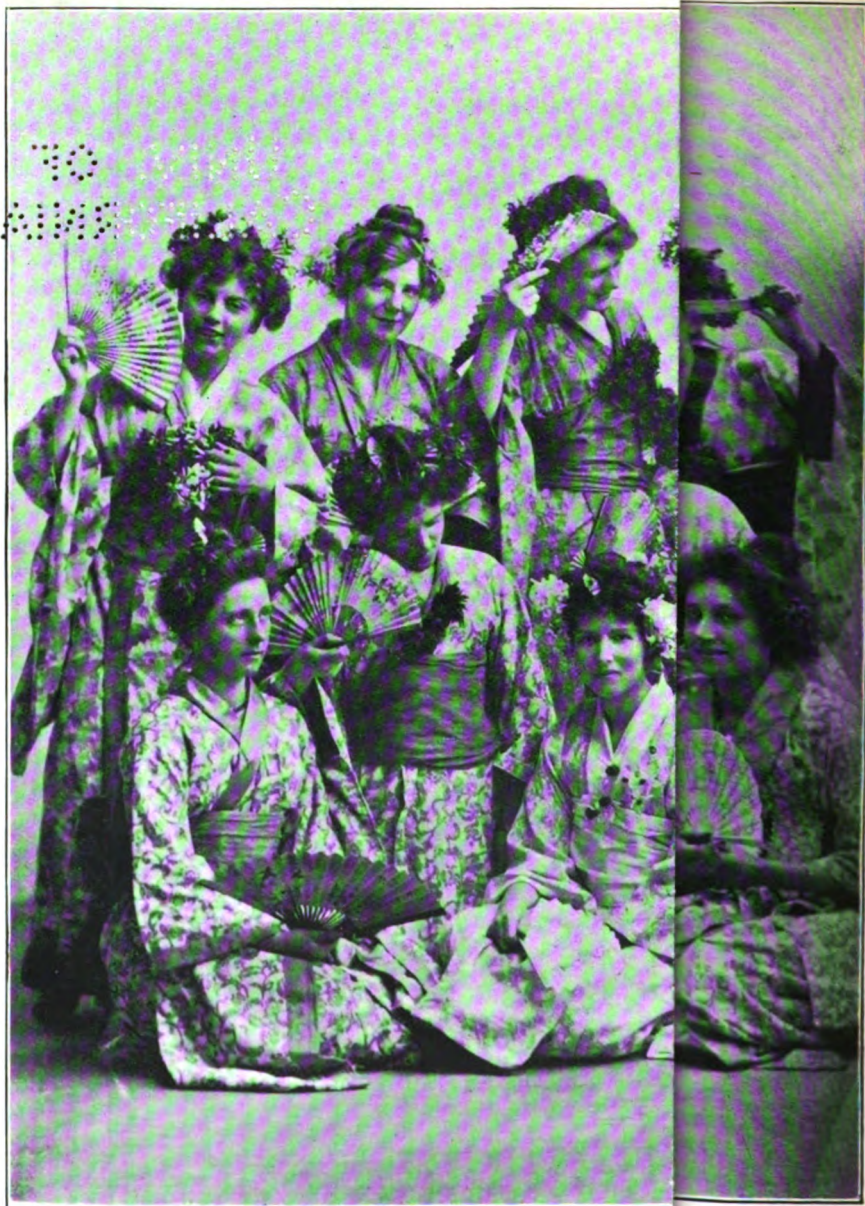
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MISS R. TAYLOR, MISS HOTINE.


THE CHO

[Frontispiece.]

ST. MARTIN'S-LE-GRAND

JULY, 1901.

Dr. Jobson's Zeal.

HEN Dr. Jobson was appointed Medical Officer to the Board of Measures and Weights, there was much ado in the newspapers, and several questions were asked in Parliament. Why did the Board require a medical officer at all? and were such an office really needed, why was it not given to a medical practitioner of standing and experience rather than to a young man of whom nothing was known except that he had taken his degree at Aberdeen, and was the son of an active politician in a northern borough for which the President of the Board sat in the House of Commons? The Board had existed without a medical officer for more than a hundred years, and the creation of the office was regarded with reasonable suspicion by members who sat on the back opposition benches. Their leaders, however, who had been in office and looked hopefully forward to a return to the front ministerial bench, showed so much lukewarmness when an independent member proposed to strike the salary of the newly created office out of the estimates, that the motion was defeated by a considerable majority, and the question of the appointment was allowed to drop.

But the President of the Board, though he had succeeded in the House of Commons, did not feel quite comfortable at the result of the discussion. The *Evening Pioneer* continued to denounce the office, and the medical journals, while supporting the creation of a medical officer, not only for the Board of Measures and Weights, but for every other Government Department unprovided with such an essential adviser, complained that the profession had been unfairly treated by the appointment of an unknown and inexperienced man. The agitation, the Minister feared, would be renewed, and the Treasury would perhaps be only too glad to make it an excuse for doing away with the office altogether. In these circumstances the President sent for Jobson, told him exactly how matters stood, and advised him to show such activity in the discharge of his duties as

would justify his appointment. Jobson was quite willing to be active and efficient. His duties had been clearly laid down in an elaborate minute drawn up by the Secretary of the Board, and signed by the President at the time the office of medical adviser was created. He was required to examine all candidates for appointments under the Board in London, and to certify as to their physical fitness, to countersign certificates given by medical men in explanation of the absence from duty of the Board's clerks and inferior servants, and to prescribe for and, if necessary, visit at their houses the porters and messengers who might be unwell or invalided, besides attending to other business which need not be particularised. All these duties Dr. Jobson discharged efficiently, rejecting candidates whenever he detected or suspected the presence of hereditary disease, and dosing the porters and messengers with physic so nauseous that they often preferred returning to work to a continuance of his treatment. In twelve months he was so far successful that he reduced the sick absence of the men under his care by fifty per cent., a triumphant vindication, so the President thought, of the wisdom of Jobson's appointment.

Having done so well as regards the sick absence of the porters and messengers in the service of the Board, Dr. Jobson turned his attention to the clerks. He obtained a return of the number of days each clerk had been absent from duty on the score of illness for two years, tabulated the details under classified headings, and having carefully examined them, arrived at the conclusion that these gentlemen were often absent on the plea of illness without much excuse. He therefore prepared a very elaborate report, in which he showed that a considerable number of the clerks appeared to suffer from minor ailments, such as biliousness, headache and indigestion, not serious enough to require the attendance of a medical man, yet sufficiently severe to compel the patients to stay at home for a day or two. In such cases it had not been the practice of the Board to require production of a medical certificate, but Jobson suggested a new rule should be laid down, and that in future no clerk should be permitted to absent himself from duty for more than one day on the plea of illness, unless a certificate were produced from a medical man stating distinctly what was the matter, and for what period absence was really necessary. This suggestion caused no small uproar in the department. The senior clerks scouted it as an insult, and the indignation of the juniors knew no bounds. A deputation was selected to wait upon the President. He received

the gentlemen who waited upon him with his usual urbanity, assured them that he was quite surprised to learn from them that it was proposed to interfere in any way with the existing rule as regarded absence from duty on account of ill health, and mildly advised them when they next interviewed him on a matter of official discipline to be better informed as to the facts. Whether the President was really ignorant of Jobson's suggestion may perhaps be doubted, but the answer to the deputation was sufficiently diplomatic to deter the senior clerks from taking any further part in the agitation.

A few weeks later the Board of Measures and Weights issued a minute upon the subject. Their attention, so the document ran, had recently been directed to the large amount of sick absence on the part of the clerks, and there was reason to fear that in some instances gentlemen did not attend at the office as regularly as they might. The Board had no wish to compel the attendance of any officer who was physically unfit for his work, but, having regard to the inconvenience caused by the absence of public servants from duty, they felt compelled to direct that in future no officer would be permitted to absent himself for more than one day on the ground of illness, except on production of a medical certificate. The rule would, however, be suspended at present in the case of officers of more than fifteen years' service, and in order to save junior officers the expense of calling in a medical man, the medical officer of the department had been instructed to give every assistance in his power to such of them as might require medical treatment for minor ailments.

In issuing this order the Board certainly showed the wisdom of the serpent. They safeguarded the privileges of the senior officers and effectually divided their interests from the interests of their less fortunate colleagues. The juniors were annoyed, and the malingerers among them threatened an agitation, but the order was apparently framed in so conciliatory a manner that opposition was impossible. Dr. Jobson of course anticipated some addition to his work, and looked forward with considerable pleasure to prescribing for the junior clerks as he prescribed for the porters and messengers. In this, however, he was disappointed. The clerks, deterred perhaps by his drastic treatment of the porters and messengers, held themselves aloof from him, and when absent from duty for more than one day on account of illness, sent in certificates from their own medical attendants.

In the course of a few months the Board had reason to fear that their requirement of a medical certificate in the case of an officer's sick absence for more than one day would tend to defeat their intention of reducing the total amount of sick leave. Certificates came in, but the minimum period of necessary absence was generally stated to be a few days, or a week. The total amount of sick absence was actually increasing, and Dr. Jobson, who had suggested the obnoxious order, was plainly told by the President that the increase was due to his ill-advised zeal.

Jobson consulted the Secretary: "Some of these fellows are shamming, I'm sure," said the doctor.

"If you think so you had better look them up, but be careful what you do, and don't get the Board into trouble."

"Will you authorise me to visit the next case?"

"I can't give you authority, but such action would be covered by the Board's order."

This was enough for Dr. Jobson, and he made up his mind that on receipt of the next doubtful certificate, he would visit the patient and investigate the case for himself.

He had not long to wait. Among the papers referred to him a few days later was a letter from Mr. Cunningham, one of the junior clerks, explaining his inability to attend at the office owing to a severe bilious attack, and enclosing a certificate from his medical attendant stating that the patient needed a few days' rest.

"Stuff!" said Jobson, as he read the documents, "He's only over-eaten himself, and might be here to-morrow; I'll go and see him this afternoon."

Accordingly, about two o'clock, Dr. Jobson told his messenger to fetch a hansom, for which of course the office paid, and as soon as it appeared got in and directed the driver to take him to Cunningham's address in Camden Town. On arriving at his destination he dismissed the cab, and delivered a thundering knock on the door of the house.

The door was not answered immediately, but just as he was about to knock a second time it was opened by a rather timid looking servant, who was evidently unwilling to admit Jobson inside the house. This naturally excited his suspicions, and he pushed himself past the girl into the hall, asking as he did so if Mr. Cunningham was at home. Before, however, the girl could reply to his question, a gaunt middle-aged woman appeared, and almost repeating his words said: "It's Mr. Cunningham you want? step in there,

please," indicating, as she spoke, the back parlour and opening the door.

Dr. Jobson entered and expected the woman to follow. But the door was shut behind him, and he found himself alone in a small and rather dark room, plainly but neatly furnished, and having one window that commanded a view of a garden between high walls. The woman, he supposed, had gone to summon Cunningham, who would no doubt appear in a minute or two.

Five minutes elapsed and nobody came. There was no bell in the room, so Dr. Jobson went to the door, which he found to his great surprise had been locked. He tried to shake it, but it was too securely fastened to rattle much, so to attract attention he thumped the panels vigorously, and called for help at the top of his voice. But these efforts were quite useless; not the slightest notice was taken, and he realised that he was a prisoner, the victim, he supposed, of a practical joke on the part of Cunningham.

Dr. Jobson's position was humiliating, but he desisted from further attempts to make himself heard, considering it would be more dignified to wait with such patience as he could command the issue of events. He had no fear for his own personal safety; it was altogether improbable that a clerk in the office of the Board of Measures and Weights would be living in a house of doubtful reputation, and the neighbourhood was eminently quiet and respectable. Yet, as time went on, he could not help feeling a little uncomfortable; outrages had sometimes been committed in apparently respectable houses, and it would be well to be on his guard. He had brought his umbrella into the room and, if necessary, he could defend himself with that.

After waiting nearly an hour in the gathering darkness he heard the front door opened and, as he fancied, the footsteps of more than one person in the hall. If violence were intended he would be prepared, and when the door of the room opened make a rush for liberty. So soon, therefore, as he heard the turning of the key in the lock, he clutched his umbrella and bolted into the arms of two stalwart policemen as they came into the room.

"Now it's no use resisting, my man," said the sergeant, "You know we've got you and you had better come quietly."

In vain Dr. Jobson tried to explain his business. The policemen hurried him into a four-wheeler, and in a few minutes he found himself at the police station.

Then he was allowed to explain. He produced his card case and

several private letters addressed to himself. The inspector on duty would not admit that there could have been any mistake in the arrest, and declined for the present to discuss the matter. He would however telegraph to the office of Measures and Weights, and until an answer was received Jobson must remain in custody.

At seven o'clock a clerk and a messenger from the office arrived at the police station, and identified the prisoner as the Medical Officer of the Board. Dr. Jobson was at once set at liberty, and was told, with many apologies for the blunder, that he had been mistaken for a well-dressed thief who had succeeded by plausible excuses in getting admission into several houses in the neighbourhood, and had made off with some valuable property. Householders had been warned of these robberies, and had been advised, in the event of any person attempting to enter a house under suspicious circumstances, to give immediate notice to the police, and, if possible, to detain the intruder. Dr. Jobson had gone so abruptly into the house at which Cunningham lived that the owner's suspicions were excited, and she had only followed the instructions of the police in detaining him. Had he shown a little more courtesy, or condescended to explain his errand before forcing his way into the house, he would not have been detained.

On the following morning Dr. Jobson reported the circumstances of his detention to the Secretary of the Board, and Mr. Cunningham was requested to state what he knew of the business; but that young gentleman was unable to throw any additional light on it. He had heard an account of the arrest from his aunt, with whom he lodged, but he had, he declared, no personal knowledge of the matter. His aunt had been warned by the police, and when Dr. Jobson forced his way into her house she took alarm and thought she was only doing right in summoning a policeman.

Dr. Jobson was by no means satisfied, and for some days threatened legal proceedings, but the President of the Board told him he would give him no help, and if he went to law it must be on his own responsibility and at his own risk. He finally decided to take no notice of the affront, which has somewhat abated his zeal for the discovery of malingerers, and it is not known that he has ever visited an absentee clerk since his unfortunate call at Mr. Cunningham's lodgings.

J. A. J. HOUSDEN.

The Post Office and the Volunteer Movement.—III.

IT is beyond the limits of this article to refer to the numerous distinguished officers who have assisted Colonel Du Plat Taylor to develop the soldier-like qualities of the men of the 24th Middlesex. Many on active service have been specially mentioned in former numbers of *St. Martin's*. The present commander is Colonel S. Raffles-Thompson, Assistant Secretary to the Post Office, who succeeded to the position on the 1st September, 1896. He became a lieutenant in 1868, and has always been keenly interested in the welfare of the regiment. In a recent article on the Post Office Corps Colonel Thompson was congratulated on fully maintaining the high reputation of the regiment for efficiency. "Under his command the men have gone into camp regularly each year for training exercise, and shown the same old cheerfulness and adaptability. Indeed, so much do they shine in this respect that they might be justly called the 'handy men' of the Volunteer forces."

Thanks to the care of Colonel Thompson as President of the Finance Committee, the regiment has been placed in a sound financial condition, after starting with a debt of £3,000.

Lieut.-Colonel G. C. Sturgeon (Postmaster of Norwich) received a commission as ensign in the 49th Middlesex in October, 1868. He was appointed major in January, 1877, and obtained his commission in Reserve of Officers on 2nd August, 1882, and was granted the honorary rank of lieut.-colonel on his resignation in January, 1889.

EXTRACT FROM THE OFFICIAL ARMY LIST, 1888.—WAR SERVICES
OF OFFICERS OF THE ARMY.

[V.] Sturgeon, G. C.—

Egyptian Expedition, 1882.—Head of Mil. Postal Department. Despatches, *Lon. Gaz.*, 2 Nov., '82. Medal; bronze star.

Soudan Expedition, 1885.—Suakin. In charge of Army Postal Dept. Despatches, *Lon. Gaz.*, 25 Aug., '85. Clasp.

Major A. M. J. Ogilvie, of the Secretary's Office, is one of the oldest officers of the Post Office Rifles. He received his appointment as lieutenant in 1881, and has been intimately associated with the progress of the corps.

Reference has been made to several members who have obtained shooting honours. It may be here explained that the reason greater distinction has not been earned in this department of army work is owing to the 24th Middlesex not being a rich corps. Good prizes are offered by many of the metropolitan Volunteer corps, and naturally many members have been attracted elsewhere on this account. Much help could be given by the major establishment of the Post Office if each branch would offer an annual prize for shooting, limited to members of the 24th Middlesex.

The record of the Post Office Corps is an honourable one. On its formation expectations were high, and it has justified them by its steady record both at home and on active service. Its excellent military qualities have been highly demonstrated in the present war, and the recent honours awarded to two of its representatives in South Africa is a further recognition by the Government of its usefulness, and the high position which it holds in the Army. The motto of the 2nd Dragoons (Royal Scots Greys) is equally applicable to the 24th Middlesex—"Nulli secundus."

For many years the lack of officers in Volunteer corps has been a serious evil. The Army without the Volunteers is insufficient, but many Volunteer corps are not properly officered, and this want of intelligent and skilful leaders might at some future time cause a national disaster. It has been frequently stated that the middle classes will not find time for the practice of arms. It is satisfactory to know that this reproach does not apply to the Post Office. In addition to the numerous and well-trained officers connected with the 12th and 24th Middlesex Corps, there are many efficient commanders of battalions and companies associated with other Volunteer regiments.

An officer who has gained high distinction is Colonel R. G. Grene, a popular member of the Savings Bank staff and commandant of the 2nd London Rifles. His service with the volunteers extends over twenty-eight years. In addition to much hard work done in connection with his volunteer command, he has been most successful in instructing members of the Church Lads' Brigade and in forming the Messengers' Drilling Corps in the Savings Bank Department. Colonel Grene was honoured by Her late Majesty personally

expressing to him her great pleasure at the discipline and order maintained by the members of the Church Lads' Brigade under his command when she reviewed them near Southsea in 1896. An account of Colonel Grene's military work together with his photo appeared in the January, 1898, number of this magazine.



COLONEL H. CONINGHAM.

Colonel Henry Coningham, of the Accountant General's Department, has done much good work with the Tower Hamlets Rifle Brigade. He was appointed second-lieutenant in July, 1879, and was made a captain five years later. After serving as major and lieutenant-colonel he was made honorary colonel to the brigade in July, 1899, receiving the volunteer decoration on the same date. He obtained his captain's certificate on 30th October, 1880, and was specially mentioned to the Secretary of State for War. In November, 1896, he obtained a field officer's certificate when he was again specially mentioned. Colonel Coningham has also passed in tactics and holds a riding certificate from the Royal Horse Guards, to which regiment he was attached for three months. His brother officers presented him with a sword on his promotion to field rank.

For many years the Post Office has been well represented in the Honourable Artillery Company. Between 1848 and 1860 there was a very strong Post Office company in the H.A.C., but the inauguration of the volunteer movement led to its members joining other corps. Major Woolmer Williams was a prominent member of the corps from 1869 to December, 1888. After serving as corporal and sergeant for seven years he was made drill-sergeant, and four years later received a commission as lieutenant. He was promoted

to captain in 1885, and retired with the rank of major and permission to wear the uniform of that rank in 1888. For many years he served on the court of assistants and was an active member of the principal committees and clubs of the H.A.C. He organised the visit of the Ancient and Honourable Artillery Company of Boston, U.S.A., to London in 1887, and was chairman of the reception committee. For his services on this occasion he received the thanks of the regiment engrossed and emblazoned on vellum. The following year, 1888, he was paymaster and secretary of the detachment that paid a return visit to America, and on the completion of the trip he was presented with a massive solid silver salver in recognition of his services. Major Williams again visited America in 1895 at the invitation of the Ancient and Honourable Artillery Company of Boston, to confer with their committee on the arrangements for their subsequent visit to London in 1896. As a souvenir of their visit he presented each member on this occasion with a bronze medal, with the portrait of our present King (an honorary member of the "Ancients") on one side and the arms of the A. and H.A.C. on the other. On his retirement from the active list of the regiment in 1888 he was presented with a life-size portrait in oils.



MAJOR WOOLMER WILLIAMS.

Major Williams' work in the volunteer force was not confined, however, to the Honourable Artillery Company, as he was also for several years, concurrently with his membership of the H.A.C., a captain in the 1st Tower Hamlets Rifle Brigade, and of which corps he is still a member of the officers' mess. He was secretary of the

London committee of the Armada Tercentenary Commemoration, and after the unveiling of the beautiful monument on the Hoe at Plymouth by H.R.H. the late Duke of Edinburgh on behalf of Her late Majesty the Queen, he was presented with an address of thanks for his services, signed by the Duke of Norfolk, K.G., the president



CAPTAIN C. A. WHEELER.

of the committee. Major Williams published a very complete history of the H.A.C. from 1537 to 1887, of which Her late Majesty the Queen accepted the dedication, and for which His Majesty the King (then Prince of Wales and captain-general and colonel of the regiment) gave a special sitting for his portrait. Since his retirement from active military work Major Williams has made a great study of Freemasonry, in which he holds many high offices, and is connected with ten different lodges from the craft up to the 18th degree. He is also a life governor of the Masonic charities.

Two prominent officers of the 17th (North) Middlesex Rifle Volunteer Corps are members of the Post Office. Mr. C. A. Wheeler, of the W.C.D.O., received his first military training in the Post Office Rifles, of which he was a member from 1888 to 1892. In 1894 he was commissioned as second-lieutenant in the 17th Middlesex and obtained his "P.S." certificate the following year. He has since qualified in tactics, topography, organisation, equipment, and engineering. He was promoted lieutenant in 1895 and captain five years later. Since 1896 he has acted as honorary director of the regimental school of arms and is the leading spirit in the sports of his corps.

Mr. J. G. Stevens, travelling clerk in the Confidential Enquiry Branch, is also a captain. He began his volunteer career in the ranks of the 1st V.B. South Stafford Regiment, where he served for five years. He was gazetted second-lieutenant in the 17th Middlesex in 1892 and obtained a captain's certificate of proficiency. He has always taken a keen interest in shooting and other competitions, and has won several prizes—generally first or second. He was appointed musketry instructor two years ago. In 1896 Mr. Stevens was transferred, on promotion to captain, from E to B company, which was then very low down on the list, both in drill and shooting, but which he worked up, with the assistance of two very able lieutenants—one of whom is Mr. Wint of the A.G.D.—to *first* in both drill and shooting, a position the company has occupied for the past three years. Captain Stevens has done the musketry and machine gun course at the school of instruction at Hythe, and in addition to acting as musketry instructor, he holds the position of assistant adjutant. He is a member of several military associations, and locally he has done good work in organising and training one of the leading Church Lads' Brigade companies in the north of London.



CAPTAIN J. G. STEVENS.

An energetic officer in the 4th V.B. East Surrey Regiment is Mr. C. Burn, of the Accountant-General's Department. He has always taken a keen interest in military work and general athletics. He was an active member of the Civil Service Rifles for twelve years, and afterwards accepted a commission in his present corps in 1898. He was promoted captain this year, and has distinguished

himself in many military examinations. In addition to obtaining his "P.S." certificate he has passed in tactics, topography, military engineering and organization. He has also won several prizes in military sports.

Another enthusiastic volunteer officer is Mr. H. S. Compton,



LIEUTENANT AND QUARTERMASTER H. S. COMPTON.

of the Savings Bank Department. For twenty-four years he has been associated with much of the hard work in the 2nd (South) Middlesex Volunteer Rifle Corps, which he joined in 1877. He has served on most committees, and for many years was secretary of the sergeants' mess, the members of which presented him with a sword and a handsome clock and bronzes on his recent promotion to the rank of lieutenant and quartermaster. Consequent upon this promotion Sergeant E. Barwell becomes assistant quartermaster-sergeant and secretary of the canteen committee. He is also of the Savings Bank Department, and achieved distinction as an athlete in the primitive days of the now defunct departmental sports. Another member of the Savings Bank Department, Mr. C. R. Plastow, well known as a prize and medal winner in connection with the annual walking race, has joined Paget's Horse, and sailed for South Africa in February last. He was presented by Colonel Grene, V.D., on behalf of his colleagues, with a pair of field glasses.

The idea of starting an Irish corps of volunteer in London emanated from Mr. J. T. Dempsey, an Irish journalist, and the inception lay with him and five young Irishmen, members of the Civil Service. Since Civil Servants formulated the scheme which ultimately proved successful in establishing the London Irish, it is satisfactory to record

that the Post Office contributes to its list of officers. Captain André, of the Accountant-General's Department, has been a volunteer for many years, and has done good work since his appointment to this well-known corps. He was originally a member of the Post Office Company (C) of the Civil Service, which he joined in 1875. He resigned in 1880, and in October, 1890, accepted a commission in the 16th Middlesex (London Irish) Rifles. He was appointed lieutenant in 1892, and captain in 1894.

Mr. T. E. P. Stretche, of the Engineer-in-Chief's Department, joined the 8th Battery 1st Gloucestershire Volunteer Artillery as a gunner in 1881, and was present at the Review held at Windsor by Her late Majesty Queen Victoria in that year. He continued to serve until 1886, when official duties necessitated his removal to the North of England. Transfers from one district to another and to London prevented him from re-joining the Volunteers until 1895, when he again donned uniform, this time as a lieutenant in the 1st Lanarkshire Volunteer Artillery. Together with a brother officer he succeeded in raising a half company at Lenzie, a suburb of Glasgow in which he then resided. His organising ability attracted the notice of Colonel E. H. B. Lysons, a retired officer of the Royal Marine



CAPTAIN ANDRÉ.

Light Infantry, and late commanding officer of the 1st V.B. Highland Light Infantry, with the result that he was offered and accepted a transfer to the latter battalion in Glasgow, with promotion to the rank of captain.

Captain Stretche's first act was to rid his company of its undesirable members. He then set enthusiastically to work recruiting and

drilling, with the gratifying result at the end of a year of enrolling seventy-two recruits, thus bringing his company to considerably over full strength, every man being returned as efficient. The number of marksmen was increased, and the company succeeded in winning the (junior) challenge cup for field firing, second prize for volley



CAPTAIN T. E. P. STRETCHÉ.

firing, the battalion challenge cup for general efficiency, and the most coveted prize in the battalion—a challenge cup presented by Sir J. Colebrooke for the smartest and *best drilled* company. It should, perhaps, be mentioned that these were the first prizes which the company had won for many years. The successes of 1897 were further increased the year following by again winning the challenge cup for the best drilled company, together with the (senior) field firing, volley firing and company team competitions, the bayonet exercise cup, and second prize for general efficiency. The standard height for recruits in this company was raised to 5 feet 8 inches in consequence of its being already over the authorised strength, but the numbers increased notwithstanding.

Owing to illness Captain Stretche was unfortunately unable to take part in the drill season of 1899, during the time the prize competitions were being held, and the results were less satisfactory to his company; but in the following year they again became the winners of the drill cup, which they retain this year, making four wins in five years. The field firing and bayonet competitions also fell to them, together with the *Glasgow Herald* cup, given for open competition in field firing at the Scottish Rifle Meeting at Darnley.

In 1898 Captain Stretche obtained the Special "P.S." Certificate, after a month's course of instruction at Chelsea Barracks. He also passed the Army examination in tactics for his rank. He has re-organized and has charge of his battalion's signalling detachment, which is principally composed of Glasgow telegraphists, with Sergeant J. Baird of that office as a most efficient and popular assistant-instructor. A series of week-end signalling camps have been held during the summer months on the Gareloch side, an almost ideal place for the purpose, and in conjunction with the detachments sent by other battalions in the Glasgow Brigade, Sergeant Baird has established signalling communication by flag, heliograph or lamp, between various points on the estuary of the Clyde.

It is understood that the 1st V.B. Highland Light Infantry has the distinction of being the only Glasgow battalion selected for inclusion in the new Scottish Army Corps, and after attending the camp which will be formed this summer in connection with the new Army scheme, Captain Stretche intends to resign his commission, his official duties having necessitated his removal to London.

A.G.D., G.P.O.

ERNEST A. MAY.

(To be concluded.)



Post Office Types.

II. THE CLERICAL APPLICANT.

HE is, as a rule, disappointing. For the first notion conveyed to the mind by the idea of a clerical applicant is of a benign postal missionary eager to convert by simple and soothing methods hardened permanent officials from the error of their ways. One fancies the gentle cleric, with the flavour of incense, maybe, still floating around him, proceeding with stately grace along the cloister-like corridors of the General Post Office, exhaling an air of *Pax Vobiscum* as on his way to the waiting-room he passes those numbered cells, where the lay Fathers of the Post Office are doing that work which the old monkish adage has held to be so near to prayer. One imagines him pausing, for a brief "ejaculatory" moment, before the half-open door of some Assistant-Secretary, wondering whether this is the room where one of the Founders of the Order of Post Office Servants once lived and laboured. "Here Abbot Justin overcame the Money Orders." "Here Brother Pacificus died to himself as to the world." "In this Cell was founded the Sisterhood of the Blue-gowned Postal Orders." Quickly, yet with all-attentive ears, he glides by the doors of the Discipline Branch, ignorant of the fact that in the Service all penance is done vicariously. Then one imagines him at length in the waiting-room, so courteous in speech, so prolific in excuses for his worn and worked-out brethren who almost break down under the burden of their letter-bags. One imagines this and how much more!

* * * * *

But the sober, stupid fact. Well, the fact is that no applicants are more severe, more unyielding than the gentlemen of the cloth, I may say of all the cloths. For there is little to choose. There are, of course, exceptions, and I, personally, have never had any rough experience of archdeacons, or received (officially) an unkind letter from any bishop—no, not even from a Colonial bishop. But the others, *Dio mio*, the others! If you get a four-page epistle crammed with the most intimate life-history of the offending postman and demanding the official's dismissal as a result of the remorseless logic and piled up evidence exhibited by the writer, the chances are ten

to one that the author is a clergyman. I hope I may be forgiven if I say that this class *seems* to have longer leisure and shorter temper than any other. I say "seems" advisedly, as outside the four (or is it forty) walls of the office my experience has been very different. Yet what is the reason? Are they only the soured specimens of this gentle race that write to the Post Office? Surely not. Or can the trouble be traced to the fact that most of the angry applications from clergymen are received on Tuesdays? If I dared advise their Reverences, it would be never to write letters of reproach on Mondays. The two sermons, the ($n + 1$) services, the hasty meals, the aggravating parishioners, and the vanishing dividends of the offertories—all these things get on a man's nerves, and he needs what is now called a "rest cure" of at least a day before attacking once more the ordinary duties of life. No. Four days a week are enough, and I feel convinced that if clergymen would only pose as applicants between Tuesdays and Fridays, we should receive fewer essays of the nature of amateur Communion Services, and the world would be all the kindlier and cheerier.

The clerical applicant plays a severe part in many a crusted old yarn. I well remember that tall gaunt figure—an avenger in an M.B. waistcoat—that sailed across the first floor room in Newgate Street one September afternoon in the early eighties. We were two rooms full of cuttings (some said weeds) from the Secretary's office, bedded out there by day. In a corner of the big first floor room was a boarded-off partition, where from ten to four lived Francis McDonnell, that kind-hearted Irishman and friend of T. P. O'Connor, whom so many, English and Irish alike, still mourn. I was in this box with McDonnell when the good clergyman burst in. And he *was* angry. For months he had suspected a postman who cleared, or ought to have cleared, the pillar-box near his house in West Kensington. Now he knew, and came to denounce the thief. For had he not posted, just before clearing time on Saturday night, a letter addressed to a Christian friend in dire need, and containing a shilling postal order? From behind his window curtain he saw the box emptied; the Christian friend lived but two miles off, and now up to half-an-hour ago (it was Monday evening) the letter with its contents had not been delivered. What proof could be clearer? He demanded the immediate arrest of the postman. He had all the particulars of the order—yes, he had got all that; and he dived into the recesses of an inner pocket to fish out the scrap of paper on which he had made the necessary notes. But as he

turned over the mass of documents he had lugged out of his pocket—a perfect budget of bills, circular notices, tracts, newspaper cuttings and the rest—something, evidently an unposted letter, worked a quick change on his face, which from angry red shifted to the pale thoughtfulness so often seen in channel steamers. “Heavens!” he muttered at last, “I must have posted the wrong one.” And bundling the whole mass of documents into his hat, he bolted. From the window we saw him for a moment crossing Newgate Street, still hat in hand. Then the crowd closed round him. This applicant, as they say on foolscap, “required nothing further.”

III. “THE ONLY MAN THAT CAN WRITE ENGLISH.”

I have often wished to learn English, and among all the European languages I have at times tinkered at this is the one which, I confess, has most attracted me. It has, therefore, been a constant grief to me that, although I have on many occasions bought a grammar of the language and invested in a more or less expensive dictionary, opportunity has always been wanting for anything like that sustained study without which no man may hope to grasp this complicated tongue. It is true that I have been among men who talked English, but these occasions have not been frequent; and I am assured by scholars that most of the MSS. on blue foolscap I have been privileged to peruse are not written in English at all. Of this, of course, I am not a competent judge. The accidents of birth and early southern skies taught me to lisp in French and Italian, poverty taught me German, and in far-off days Newman did all that a great man could to teach a little man Latin. But English? That is another thing. It is one of my dreams that, in the starved leisure of a pensioned life to come, I may make one more attempt to learn that master language in which men swear so unmusically and sing best without words. Strange tongue indeed! It has adjectives so robust that some that have lived on since the sixteenth century are still too strong for modern ears, and an infinitive so weak that it is liable to split up even when delicately handled by a Cabinet Minister.

* * * * *

Now, one of the things that has at times puzzled me, in my skirmishes round the outer fringe of this strange English tongue, is the number of men—out of harmony each with the other—who proclaim as it were *ex cathedrâ* that they are “the only fellow that knows English.” Every Branch of the Post Office has one of them, at least. Some day, when I myself have learned the rudiments, or got my boy Jack to teach me, I hope to be able to publish in these

friendly columns a critical estimate of these various claims. At present I can but look through the window from the outside, and the glass is by no means clear. I see one man whose claims to pure literature appear to rest upon a copious use of the word "alleged"; I see another who allows any enormity (this is the way the boy Jack puts it) provided infinitives remain unsplit; and yet another who has carried the art of punctuation to such a height of refinement that he is believed to have expressed all that he had to say in a unique and rhythmical minute consisting entirely of stops. Words are gross and unnecessary counters to one for whom the lilting grace of the colon has no secrets, and to whom the comma and semicolon speak in clear tones of the beauties they enfold. Yet another scattered his stops as from a pepperpot; but he, by general consent, was anathema to the other dogmatists. One memory I have, and this of days gone by before my beard was frosted, of one such good fellow who caused us youngsters many heart searchings. He was the prince of those who proclaimed: "I'm the only man in this show who knows English." Honestly he believed this; honestly he worked out his own salvation and the perdition of others. The quick needs of the Service and the common sense which rules in the business matters of the great outer world concerned him not at all. He was "the only man who could write English," and he would let his juniors know it. They did know it, poor little men. Not a thing could pass him. He cut up their drafts with the holy joy of an Inquisitor of fable pinching the devil out of an erring brother with red-hot tongs. He made their lives a burden to them. They, in return, nicknamed him the "Draft Excluder"; a feeble joke, showing to what drivell he had reduced his colleagues. Luckily for the sanity of some that still survive, he did not last; he slid off the surface of the Post Office world into the darkness beyond. Well do I remember him, that honest old "Draft Excluder"! I can see him now, with his pointed beard and his eternal black suit and sober tie, as he sat muttering to himself at his desk, gloating audibly over some unlucky young Englishman's attempt to say a simple thing in plain homely words. One young Englishman there was who sat in the same room as the "Draft Excluder" and must have had a parlous bad time. For the "D.E.," who really was not at all a bad fellow when off his hobby, had sundry curious little ways which made him a difficult animal to live with. Himself ignorant of music, he would insist on humming snatches from a North London *repertoire* of devotional tunes; he would read aloud to himself, with many strange

gurglings in his throat, from the official papers he happened to have before him; he would chuckle loudly over official jokes buried in the same dusty papers—nothing to him possessed wit or humour which was not backed by a Registered number; he could not blot a signature without thumping the porous sheet or leave the room without slamming the door; and when an east wind blew on that cruel outer side of the building which faces N.E., the “Draft Excluder” would grimly belie his title and, without a “by your leave,” let in torrents of icy air on to the boys beneath.

* * * * *

I have said the Draft Excluder—heaven rest him—moved off into the darkness, and this I fear is true in the gravest sense of all. When first I knew him he was one of the kindest of men, and this constant nagging of others can only have been due to some brain lesion too long unnoticed. It was murmured among us that he had taken refuge in one of those abodes which the euphemistic French call “Houses of Health,” but we never really knew. The only foundation for the story rests on a visit paid by one of us to a relative, a surgeon attached to one of the great Surrey homes for the insane. “You’re in the G.P.O.,” said the surgeon, “are you not?” The official pleaded guilty. “Well,” answered the doctor, “I’ve one of your people here, and a real good sort he is, poor fellow. He saves us no end of trouble. Why, before he came we had some nine patients afflicted with melancholia and *cacoëthes scribendi*—covered reams of paper and wept no end. But he, your late colleague, has got them well in hand. They write drafts for him and he cuts them up—takes up the matter, I think he calls it, with the officer in fault. I believe he even stops their increments, whatever that may mean. Anyhow, the whole ten are perfectly satisfied with their parody of a Public Office and are wholesomely occupied all day long. There is no melancholia, they are too busy with their styles. Occasionally there is a little friction, when they embody their grievances in a petition to him. Then he drafts a memorandum promising the appeal shall receive attention, and the game begins *de novo*.”

Such was the end, if the story be true, of not the least remarkable of one of the only men who could write English. But the *if* in this instance is large indeed.

IV. THE BOOK POST APPLICANT.

Red rags and bulls! In very truth the public do most furiously rage against the Book Post, and with as little reason as the bull at

the bunting. You would think, on reading a batch of angry Book Post letters, that the whole aim of the Post Office was to baulk and bother the commercial world, cut off its communications and tax it rightly or wrongly by stretching every point against it, giving nothing in return. Yet, indeed, things are not so. The B.P., originally a cheap halfpenny post for printed matter, has been extended by concession after concession to meet the needs of commerce: here a little writing, there a little more writing, has been allowed till there is a very Tom Tiddler's ground shading off between the halfpenny and penny. On this ground the Book Post applicant romps and rages, asking for more. That more could of course be given, but *at what cost and at whose expense?* Jones (or rather Jones & Co., or Jones Brothers, or Messrs. Jones Limited) pleads patriotically for an open halfpenny post; but are Smith and Brown and Robinson—who greatly outnumber Jones—prepared to pay an extra twopence in the pound income tax? Is sugar ?

* * * * *

I am getting out of my depth. Honestly, I think if people only knew the infinite pains taken in the Post Office to apply with absolute fairness the existing law and to stretch, where possible, the regulations to meet any hard case—I say, if they could only grasp this, they would be “*asprised*,” as little Dorothy has it. But they do not know, at least not all of them.

A friend of mine, a lady, who has done me the honour once and again to discuss the ins and outs of the Book Post regulations—more, I very much fear, with a view to breaking as many as possible than from any desire to take an oath of allegiance to pages 4 and 5 of the *P.O.G.*—has sent me, with a letter so frank that it makes an honest “supplementary” shudder, the following examination paper on the all-important halfpenny question. I will not, as they say in the Press, be answerable for the opinions of my fair correspondent; but just give the little paper as it stands. Any official of average intelligence will of course answer it with ease; it is useful, however, as an instance of the difficulties that at times beset the lay mind:—

POST OFFICE TRIPOS.

B.P. Examination. Part I.

1. When is a circular not a circular? What are the dangers latent in the written address of the addressee?

2. What is the weight of the heaviest book that can be sent by Book Post? Write short essay on Tacitean compression of English

literature which would result if books were restricted to the Book Post limit. Show how much of Kipling, and how little of Hall Caine, could in these circumstances be sent by Book Post.

3. What happens to dead book packets? Write brief treatise on eschatology of (1) an irregular circular and (2) an ordinary letter.

4. At what stage in its evolution does a visiting card become a circular? State succinctly the postal effects of writing "R.S.V.P." and "At Home" on a card. How does this affect the temper of the social circle addressed?

5. A takes x imitation typewritten circulars and y envelopes to be posted, and hands them to B. What ritual, if any, should A and B observe? Assuming that x is greater than 20, put the relation of x to y in the form of an equation. How many such circulars can be enclosed under one triangle? Prove this by reference to the *P.O.G.*

6. Describe briefly the use and abuse of gum in Book Post. What is an adhering surface? Is a charge ever affected by atmospheric moisture?

7. Distinguish between "admissible" and "transmissible" by Book Post. Would the present paper be so transmissible? Sketch the perils that beset an examination paper on its passage through the post.

8. "The Post Office puts a premium on politeness." Translate this journalese into English, and show that the statement it contains has no foundation in fact.

9. Translate into French: "No book packet may contain or bear any communication in the nature of a letter not being matter coming within the definition of such packet or being otherwise expressly allowed." Explain the *nature* of a letter.

10. Give a simple and immediate test for distinguishing between typewriting and imitation typewriting. Define a "Public Officer." (Twenty minutes allowed for answering this question.)

Here ends the Examination Paper of an Englishwoman.

J. SCOTT STOKES.

(*To be continued.*)

The Postmaster-General on the Post Office.

THE Marquess of Londonderry was the chief guest at the annual banquet of the Bristol Chamber of Commerce, held at the Royal Hotel, Bristol, under the presidency of Mr. T. T. Lindrea, on the 24th April last. Among those present were Earl Waldegrave, Sir Herbert Ashman, J.P., Sir Frederick Wills, M.P., Judge Austin, J.P., Mr. C. E. Hobhouse, M.P., Mr. Lewis Fry, the Lord Mayor (Mr. Colthurst Godwin), the High Sheriff (Mr. E. B. James) and Mr. R. C. Tombs (Postmaster and Surveyor of Bristol).

The President, in proposing "His Majesty's Ministers," remarked that he particularly associated the toast with the name of their distinguished guest, the Marquess of Londonderry. It was within their recollection that it was originally intended to hold the annual banquet of the Chamber somewhere about the time of the starting of the direct mail service between Bristol and Jamaica, and they thought that no one in the country could be more appropriately asked as principal guest than the Postmaster-General. He could assure the noble marquess that, although he was a comparative stranger to Bristol, he was none the less heartily welcome, and they all hoped to see him again and again.

The Marquess of Londonderry, in reply, alluded to the great growth that had taken place in the population, trade, and prosperity of Bristol during the late Queen's reign. Last February, in eighteen days, the amount paid on goods taken out of Bond reached £487,000. Of this sum, no less than £430,000 was paid in the last eight days, and of this £370,000 came from a single firm for withdrawals of tobacco from Bond. This included the enormous single cheque paid by that firm one day for a quarter of a million—the largest single cheque ever known at His Majesty's Customs at Bristol. He also congratulated Bristol on the great development to her trade that must come through the inauguration in February last of the new service to the West Indies. This, he was sure, would do much not only to strengthen the ties that bound this country to

the West Indian Colonies, but also to restore to Bristol some measure of that position she had once enjoyed in the trade of the United Kingdom. He had, however, come there in his capacity as Postmaster-General, and was expected to say something with regard to the many criticisms that had been levelled at his Department. There were many subjects on which a member of His Majesty's Government could address them, but he did not hesitate to ask their indulgence if he spoke to them with regard to his own Department, because he felt sure, no matter what might be the opinion or ideas of any gentleman present, one of his chief objects in life was to have his letters, parcels, and telegrams delivered at the earliest possible moment. He could say for himself, as he was sure he could say for his predecessors, that their one aim and object was to promote the convenience and the comfort of the people, and thus discharge the duty of that great Department over which he presided in a manner which he would not say would give satisfaction, but would cause the least discontent. Undoubtedly, with regard to his Department, many and varied criticisms had been made. He did not object for one moment to those criticisms; on the contrary, he welcomed them. However, there were certain complaints with regard to the Department which he thought were hardly fair. These complaints were made under pseudonyms in the press. He could not, therefore, investigate them, as they referred to the non-delivery of letters which perhaps were never posted at all, but were left in the tail pocket of the butler's coat. The number of letters received, whose origin it was impossible to trace, was enormous, but he was always prepared to go into that question, and, so far as lay in his power, to deal with the public as they should be dealt with. He endeavoured to rectify any mistakes made in the Department. Undoubtedly mistakes did occur. The Post Office was a Department of vast magnitude, employing an enormous number of hands, and necessitating the greatest supervision. He did not for a moment deny that mistakes must and did occur, but what he wished the public to remember was that the work of the Department was of an overwhelming and singularly complex character. Though mistakes occurred, and the Department was most anxious to rectify them, he would remind them that it was easy to criticise, but somewhat difficult to remedy these defects. Suggestions were constantly made, and the difficulty was to meet them in a proper manner. It was his one aim and object, as well as that of his colleagues at the Post Office, to do all in their power to minister to the wants and requirements of

the British public and conduce to the convenience and welfare of the country at large. The Postmaster-General undoubtedly enjoyed a position of great responsibility and anxiety, but it was generally believed he had great liberty of action. Of all the public Departments, however, which were presided over by other people, there was hardly one which was more controlled by Acts of Parliament than that of the Post Office. If the public thought alterations essential to their welfare, they had to alter the law of the land. There were many critics who considered it very easy for the Postmaster-General to facilitate certain reforms, and bring into action methods which conduced to their comfort, but they quite ignored the necessary appeal to Parliament. The time of Parliament was very much taken up, and an attempt to carry postal reforms would scarcely receive favourable attention. Certainly the opportunity for discussion would be very much limited. He was told these reforms could be passed by what was called a short Bill, but his experience was that short Bills relating to postal reforms very often took up more time than long ones, and generally they had to be dropped. Thus, he was continually urged to issue postal orders for a guinea, the present maximum being a pound, and to remit the extra commission now payable on orders presented more than three months after the date of issue. He had been considerably pressed on that question, but those who did so ignored the fact that both these points were discussed in Parliament when the measure was carried through. It was only carried with considerable difficulty, and if he ventured at the present moment to ask for any amendment, he knew it would cause considerable discussion by more than one influential section of the House of Commons. He reminded them that the Post Office was regarded as a means of bringing in revenue to the Exchequer. Only recently the Chancellor of the Exchequer had complained of the continued proposals for increased expenditure at the hands of the Post Office. He did not in the least complain of that. He thought the Chancellor of the Exchequer was bound to complain when they considered the many demands that were made upon the national finances during the past year. He was aware that popular opinion did not regard the Post Office as a source of revenue. But for more than 200 years a sensible portion of the revenue of the Crown has been raised by this means, and he did not think any Chancellor of the Exchequer would readily surrender such a source of income. It

was clear that in times like the present, when our national expenditure was advancing so rapidly, any revenue surrendered in one direction would have to be made good by additional taxation in another. If they relinquished, or desired the Post Office to relinquish, a certain means of revenue for the benefit of a certain class, that revenue would have to be raised by the Chancellor of the Exchequer from some other source; and when they considered that the Post Office contributed something like four millions per annum to the national exchequer—an amount which was equal to about twopence in the pound Income tax—it remained for them to decide whether they wished the Post Office to give those advantages to other classes of the community, or whether they wished to leave the arrangements as they were at present. His own opinion was that, considering the revenue of the Post Office as compared with the income of the country, no Chancellor would propose for one instant to alter the present arrangements as to payments to the national exchequer. If they compared the gross with the net revenue of the Post Office for a series of years, they would find that the latter held a constantly diminishing ratio to the former. More and more was being spent annually on the work of the services, and a smaller proportion was being retained as profit. Before the introduction of the penny postage they spent out of every pound 11s. 8d. and retained as profit 8s. 4d. Twenty years ago they spent 13s. 4d., and retained 6s. 8d. as profit; whilst last year 15s. 5d. was expended, and only 4s. 7d. was retained as profit. Those figures, he ventured to think, showed that the public, as customers, got more for their money than was generally thought. For that reason he was rather glad his good friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer was not there that night, for if he heard how much was spent in benefitting those who relied on the Post Office, and how little they handed over to the national exchequer, he would not be inclined to meet him when he suggested certain postal reforms, as he intended to do next year. He hoped they would invite him to meet Sir Michael in Bristol, for he might then be inclined to grant him (the speaker) any request he might make. He wanted them to recognise that the Postmaster-General's good intentions, and they were many, were controlled by Parliamentary and statutory exigencies. He had also been asked to improve their rates on foreign letters and parcels, as well as to cheapen the delivery of letters and parcels from abroad; but it was entirely forgotten that he had to reckon with foreign Powers. Mr. Henniker

Heaton had declared, in a letter, that it was possible to create an ideal Post Office. He wished he could accede to every one of his requests, but he had to consider Parliament; he was not master himself. In that letter Mr. Henniker Heaton's proposals were classified under no fewer than 30 heads. Three of those had been carried out before he wrote his letter, and one since; Parliamentary sanction would be required for nine, the sanction of the Treasury for thirteen, and the consent of foreign and Colonial Governments for six. And when he told them that if they carried out this ideal scheme of Mr. Heaton in its entirety it would absorb the whole of the four millions which the Chancellor of the Exchequer expected the Post Office to provide, and would entail the raising of some 40 or 50 millions capital, they would see that these demands for an ideal Post Office were not to be faced with a light heart. He thought they would see that they had to contend with difficulties, and that if they were to meet the requirements of the public as they were anxious to do they must proceed in the course in which they were moving at present—with steadiness and sureness, and not promise things which it was impossible to fulfil.

In Honour of Ralph Allen and John Palmer.



ON the 25th April, the day after his visit to Bristol to celebrate the establishment of the new steamship line to the West Indies, which is the latest development of our Colonial mail service, the Postmaster-General visited Bath to take part in a ceremony in honour of Ralph Allen and John Palmer. The two great postal reformers of the 18th century were both citizens of Bath, and are greatly honoured in that city, not only for their work in the Post Office, but also as founders of that repute and prosperity which Bath has enjoyed for two centuries. No city is more full of associations connected with the famous men of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, and by a happy thought there has lately been started a movement to keep alive these associations by placing tablets on the houses to which they especially attach. One of the tablets which were unveiled by Lord Londonderry was placed on the house in which Ralph Allen first conducted the business of the Bath Post Office and of his cross post contracts, and the other on the house in which John Palmer was born.

Soon after midday the martial music of the Bath postmen's band was heard, as the staff of postmen and messengers, headed by Mr. Kerans, the postmaster, and his lieutenants, marched on to the space between the Abbey and the Guildhall for inspection by the Head of the Department. A procession was then formed, in which the Postmaster-General was accompanied by the mayor, and followed by the town councillors, two by two. Before them went the city swordbearer, a portly figure in green and red mediæval robes, and the party proceeded to the North Parade, from which Allen's house is now reached by a passage way. The house is built of stone, and has a very handsome front in the style of the classical Renaissance, though it appears now to be but poorly inhabited, and is surrounded by comparatively squalid buildings, if one may so describe any part of the very respectable town of Bath. In drawing aside the curtain which veiled the tablet, on which was inscribed "Here lived Ralph

Allen, 1727-1764," Lord Londonderry said that there was probably not one of the great men who had been associated with Bath who was more of a benefactor to his town, as well as to the public service of his country, than Ralph Allen. The procession then moved on to Palmer's house, only a few yards away, where a similar ceremony took place. After another short speech by the Postmaster-General, in which he explained the share Palmer had borne in developing the modern Post Office system, the second tablet was unveiled. It bore the inscription, "Here lived John Palmer, born 1741, died 1818."

Afterwards at the Guildhall, where a bust of Allen in the Council Chamber looked down upon a large party assembled for luncheon, the Postmaster-General, in response to the toast of his health, discoursed more at large upon the topic of the day. He congratulated Bath upon having among its citizens two out of the four great men of Post Office history. Witherings, in the reign of Charles I., opened the Royal posts to the public, and settled regular post roads. These roads, however, were of more use in affording travelling facilities for passengers than for mails. The system arranged by Witherings, though it lasted nearly a century, provided for communication only between London and certain other important towns, and left all other parts of the kingdom unprovided for. The six post roads which Allen found at the beginning of the 18th Century were, the North road through York and Newcastle to Scotland; the Yarmouth road, through Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk; the Chester road, which was the route to Ireland; the Bristol Road, through Berkshire and Wiltshire; the Western road, to Plymouth and Exeter; and the Kent road to Dover, which was the highway to the Continent. The posts on these roads provided fairly well for the purposes of government and for the Naval and Military services, as well as for communication with foreign parts, but they did not provide for inland commerce and manufactures. Letters between towns on different roads went up to London and down again. Letters between towns not on the post roads had to be sent to the post roads by any means that offered, and to take their chance of getting from the post towns to their destinations. Even on the post roads the posts went only twice or thrice a week. It was Allen's task to provide a general postal system by opening up new lines of posts between the main roads, and through new lines of country. Between 1720, when he began his first contract, and 1764 when he died, he covered the country with a network of posts giving easy communication between all important towns, and he

also increased the number and speed of the mails on the post roads. While doing this he raised himself from being a humble clerk, and later, postmaster of Bath, to a position of great affluence, and of friendship with many of the great men of his time. Among those friends was Lord Chatham, to whose memory Lord Rosebery unveiled a tablet last year. At the same time Allen rendered services as great to the city of Bath by his local work, but of these services others could speak with more knowledge.

It was twenty years after Allen's death that Palmer's Mail Coach system was started. The old system, by which mails were conveyed by postboys on worn out hacks, travelling some three or four miles an hour, and were exposed to constant risks of robbery or accident, was neither convenient nor safe, and much of the correspondence of the country was conveyed through other channels. Palmer proposed his system of swift mail coaches carrying armed guards, and with the support of Pitt the plan was adopted. Its advantage soon made itself apparent, and the improvement of roads at the end of the 18th Century enabled the mail coach service to be brought to great perfection. It lasted less than 60 years, but in those years correspondence and the revenue of the Post Office multiplied many times, and when Rowland Hill turned his attention to postal questions he found a rapid and efficient service, which was at the same time so cheap that the cost of conveyance was only a small item in the expenses of the Post Office. It was on the smallness, and practical equality for all distances, of this cost that Rowland Hill founded his chief argument for uniform Penny Postage, and thus in a sense Palmer was the pioneer of cheap postage, because it was the experience of the mail coach system which showed that it practically cost no more in 1837 to convey a letter to Edinburgh than to a place 20 miles out of London.

We had now Post Office trains travelling at a speed of from 40 to 50 miles an hour, carrying a large staff of sorters, and equipped with apparatus for receiving and discharging the mails without stopping, where, in the Eighteenth Century, we had the solitary post boy travelling some four or five miles an hour. When Allen began his work, the whole number of letters in the United Kingdom probably did not exceed eight or nine millions in a year. Sixty years later, when the mail coach era began, the number could not have been more than twelve or thirteen millions. Now no less than 300,000,000 letters and 5,000,000 parcels were dealt with in a year in the travelling post offices, which did the work of Allen's

by-posts and cross-posts. The whole number of letters in the United Kingdom was now over 2,300,000,000 in the year. To the letter post had been added many other services, and some 1,200,000,000 postcards, circulars, and parcels, of which no one in the Eighteenth Century ever dreamed, were now carried in addition to letters. In the General Post Office in London, where in Allen's time a staff of twelve clerks and ten sorters could dispose of all the country mails, we had now a staff of 8,000 persons regularly employed. For the one item of the conveyance of mails by road and rail more than £1,500,000 was now spent every year, or more than eighteen times the whole cost of the Post Office service when Allen began his system, and about seven times the whole cost of the service when Palmer's coaches started in 1784. These huge figures were useful as showing the beneficial results that had followed the principles and organisations of the two great postal reformers, Allen and Palmer. If we looked at the immediate results of their systems, striking as those were, we should not realise the full extent of our debt to them. The principles they introduced had been steadily applied, and it was to be hoped that the figures quoted would be regarded, not only as evidence of what we owed to them, but also as showing the steadfast intention of the Post Office to give a speedy and perfect system on the great lines of communication, and a regular service to every town and village in the United Kingdom and even to the remotest and most solitary household.

The Mayor of Bath proposed the health of "the Visitors," and said that they had amongst them two representatives of the great men they were honouring. Ralph Allen was represented by Colonel Allen, a direct descendant of his nephew, and the owner of Bathampton Manor, a part of Ralph Allen's estate. Colonel Allen had lately returned from South Africa.

John Palmer was represented by his grandson Colonel Palmer, R.E.

The Mayor then recalled the great services Allen had rendered to Bath apart from his work in the Post Office. By his energy and ability the Bath stone industry was founded. It was to him and to the architect Wood that Bath owed its stately terraces and crescents. Allen planted the groves that made the hillsides of Bath so pleasant. John Palmer had also rendered eminent service as a citizen. He managed the Bath Theatre for several years, was twice Mayor, and four times Member of Parliament for the City. Colonel Allen thanked the company for their kind reception,

and Colonel Palmer said that it had given him the greatest pleasure to witness the testimonial to his grandfather's services, and this pleasure would be shared by the members of his family, including his sister who had given the cup on the table to the Corporation. It had been a present from the Citizens of Glasgow to John Palmer. Colonel Palmer then said he wished to present a small curiosity to the Corporation. Readers of *Pickwick* would remember that, when Mr. Pickwick was proceeding to Bath, Sam Weller discovered inside the coach the name of "Moses Pickwick," and wanted to fight the guard for what he considered an outrage on his master. Among John Palmer's papers, however, was an old contract for the Bristol and Bath Mail Service, and one of the parties bore the name of Pickwick, and was the landlord of the White Hart Hotel at Bath. That contract he hoped the Corporation would accept as a memorial both of his grandfather and of Dickens.

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The Ladies of the Postal Order Branch.



WE have from time to time noticed in these pages the literary, musical and dramatic enterprise of the ladies of the Postal Order Branch. For ten years, or longer, they have carried on a journal of their own, entitled *The Boomerang*, and it has been supported with rare fidelity by members of the Branch exclusively. To Miss Edith J. Temple, now



MISS MIERS IN DANCE TO SONG "THE TOY MONKEY."

Mrs. Durrant, is due the starting of the journal, and she managed and edited it during the early years of its existence. And every year a concert or dramatic entertainment has been held, the proceeds of which have been applied to meeting any debts which may have been incurred during the magazine's year. We do not think there is any other department in which female labour is employed which can show such evidences of public spirit. So far as the evidence of *St. Martin's-le-Grand's* pages are concerned, the energies of the

Savings Bank ladies are confined to swimming, which, though a useful and skilful mode of exercise, is one which makes few calls on the intellect, and fewer still on the spirit and the imagination. There is abundant evidence in the neighbourhood of Queen Victoria Street that the Savings Bank ladies possess intellectual ability and tastes in the support that they render to Mudie's Library, as it has long been an axiom with the male staff that if you meet a lady in the city with a Mudie's book in her hand, it is ten chances to one that she hails from the Savings Bank. But except in the matter of swimming, they do not appear to have learnt the art of organisation.

Now the Postal Order ladies do know how to organise, and it is not



MISS BLOOMFIELD IN DANCE TO SONG "CHON-KINA."

with the object of worrying the Postmaster-General, but rather with the idea of amusing and improving themselves and of encouraging sociability among the members of the Branch. We should add that *The Boomerang* is at present conducted by Miss M. Filsell, who has had no small share in organising the ladies, and she is not unknown to the readers of *St. Martin's-le-Grand*.

During the past winter, the usual Boomerang concert was held with great success, and the reception accorded to it was so marked

that it was decided to repeat the entertainment in January in aid of the North-Eastern Hospital for Children. The death of Queen Victoria involved a postponement, and it was not until the 22nd April that the event took place. The first part consisted of selections from "The Geisha," and the second part of a miscellaneous selection of instrumental music, songs, and recitations. The entertainment had been arranged by Miss Miers, assisted by Miss Bloomfield, both of whom exhibited histrionic abilities of no mean order. Miss Miers, whose portrait we have the pleasure of publishing in two different characters, is a pupil of Mrs. Hasluck, a well known teacher of elocution, and she has had considerable experience in amateur theatricals. In "The Geisha" selections, she sang "The Toy Monkey," and one forgot all deficiencies of voice and musical ability in her delightful acting and dancing. Her monologue, "A Peculiar Attack," in the second part of the concert, revealed her also as an actress. She possessed ease and charm of manner, and it was quite an artistic treat to notice the command she had over facial expression. In many ways this was the hit of the evening. One of our portraits shows Miss Miers as she appeared in the monologue.

Miss Bloomfield, who acted as Miss Miers' assistant in organising the entertainment, and whose portrait also accompanies this article, was far and away the most able actress in "The Geisha" selections. She sang, too, with great charm, and her dancing was both dainty and skilful. The solo in "Chon-Kina" was rendered by her and enthusiastically encored, and later on in the evening she sang "Bid me to love." And in Miss Bloomfield, as in Miss Miers, we could not but be struck with her ease of movement and her knowledge of her art.

"A Geisha's Life," one of the most difficult songs in the opera, was sung by Miss Wittrick, who is a student of the Blackheath Conservatoire, and it obtained and deserved an encore. She is a very popular girl among her fellows. "The Toy Duet" was sung by Miss B. McIntosh and Miss Reay with much spirit, and "Jappy-Jap-Jappy" by Miss Bourke and Master Mackrell. Miss Bourke is a little lady who is brimming over with fun and good spirits, a creature "that feels its life in every limb." It is the best praise to say she was herself in the duet, and we all applauded her. And she looked charming. Miss Hoy and Mr. Percy Miers acted and sang well together in the duet "Farewell," as did also Miss McManus and Mr. Bazire in "Ching-a-Ring-a-Ree."

But what would the solos and duets have been without the

chorus? The chorus and the band must have a paragraph all to themselves. That they played and sang so well together is a tribute to their training as well as to their own public spirit. We detected very few mistakes, and very few individual exceptions to the high level obtained by the performers. The stage was indeed a pretty picture when the chorus held possession. We overheard one of the lady principals in the audience exclaim to another principal, "I *am* proud of the girls: how charming they look!" And then, with a guilelessness of the possible sarcasm in the words, she added, "I don't recognise them." One thing is especially to their credit. Their pretty costumes were all home made, yet there was a unity in the idea that proclaimed the genius for combination and organisation.



MISS HOY AND MR. MIERS IN DUET "FAREWELL."

Of the members of the band Miss Mann deserves special mention, not only for the way in which she contributed to the success of "The Geisha," but for her able violin solo in the second part of the concert.

Miss Leresche, who has for years been known as the pianist of the P.O.B., as Miss Mann is called its violinist, presided at the piano with great ability. We understand that Miss Leresche is now a retired officer of the Branch.



MISS McMANUS AND MR. BAZIRE IN DUET "CHING-A-RING-A-REE."

It only remains for us to notice a very vigorous and amusing recitation, "A Christmas Pantomime," given by Miss Brooker, who was most successful as a mimic. The assistance other than that we have mentioned rendered by mere men consisted of songs by Mr. Reay and Mr. Hornby, and a humorous monologue by Mr. Achille Bazire. Indeed, although a man, Mr. Bazire must be specially mentioned for his exploits as the Chinaman, and for the excellent assistance he rendered throughout to the ladies. His acting was quite above the average.

Miss Brown, the lady principal, was in the audience, and looked really proud of her staff, and we can only hope, in the interests of the majority of the members of the Branch, that she will not specially favour in her future recommendations for principal clerkships those members who have dancing abilities. Speaking from the point of view of the mere man, we would hardly blame her if she did so, and if we had any voice in the selection we should have little doubt, after the experience of this entertainment, whom we should choose for advancement. As we are powerless to do this for them, we have great pleasure in publishing their portraits. The portraits are, perhaps, a welcome change from the groups of postmasters, surveyors, and clerks we frequently publish, and they are surely a very eloquent refutation of the libel which is occasionally heard in the precincts of the City, that the ladies of the Post Office bear a worn and worried look, and lose their natural charm and

attractiveness after a year or two's existence within office walls. Even the principals in the audience looked cheerful and animated. Principal clerks of the other sex may indeed envy their colleagues in rank among the ladies their capacity for enjoyment. As for ourselves, we sat in the stalls and felt quite young again, for we were surrounded by the lady superintendent, and principal and first class clerks.



MISS MIERS IN RECITATION "A PECULIAR ATTACK."

Illustrations of Post Office History from the Dartmouth MSS.

[We publish below some more of the interesting papers illustrating the work of the Post Office, about the year 1680, from the MSS. placed at our disposal by the kindness of the Earl of Dartmouth. These chiefly illustrate the great struggle in the 17th century, lasting on into the 18th, to maintain the monopoly of the conveyance of letters by the Post Office. In the period from the time when Withering in 1635 first opened the Royal Posts to the public until Ralph Allen began his system of cross posts in 1720, there was little increase in the number of posts. The great posts to Scotland, to Ireland and to the West country, ran only three days a week, and were slow in their conveyance. There were few local posts to bring letters from the towns off the great post roads to the Royal Mails, and such as existed were worked by private enterprise. In the reign of Charles II. there was a great increase in the number of carriers and stage coaches. In a previous paper we saw how the good people of Bedford were alarmed by this increase of coaches. Between 1660 and 1666 several proclamations were published for "the quieting of the Postmaster General in his office," and also for his "better quieting," *i.e.*, for his protection against the competition of carriers and others who illegally carried letters in great numbers. In the Post Office Act of 1711, many pains and penalties were prescribed for those who encroached on the Postmaster General's monopoly. But all penal efforts were in vain, and it was not till the enterprise of Allen gave the country an efficient system of cross-posts, and increased the number of the main posts, that the difficulty disappeared. From the papers before us the officials seem to have been almost in despair towards the end of the reign of Charles II., and were ready to consider proposals for coming to terms with the letter smugglers. Who J. Biggs, the author of "the proposall," was, we do not know, but possibly he was the John Biggs who later, by the influence of Lord Dartmouth, became Recorder of Portsmouth. The first Lord Dartmouth was one of the chief advisers of James II., when, as Duke of York, the revenue of the Post Office formed his personal income, and, probably, Biggs gained his knowledge of Post Office matters by doing its legal work for Lord Dartmouth. T.G., the writer of the second paper, was, evidently, Thomas Gardiner, whose name appears in the list of officers below as "Controller" of the

Inland Office. Each of the papers given below is written on a separate sheet, and unfortunately none are dated. The authors are responsible for the peculiarities of spelling and punctuation—A.M.O.]

I.—“TO BRING CARRIERS AND COACHMANS LETTERS INTO THE POST OFFICE.”

THE Case. — Letters sent by Coaches and Comon Knowne Carriers of Goods by Carts, Waggon, or Packhorses and shall be carried along with their Carts Waggon and Packhorses respectively. Such Letters are excepted out of the Statute 12 of the King for erecting and establishing a post office. Carriers cannot be hindered by this law from Carrying Letters Soe as they Keep with their Carts Waggon or Packhorse or Comeing after with Letters they will not in Reason be catched againe butt will Rather have their Letters with their Carts Waggon or Packhorses to come in with them in Case their Occasions call them to be in towne sooner rather than run the Hazard of Soe great a penalty as the law inflicts without any profit att all to themselves itt being the same thing to them to have their Letters come two or three houres sooner or later. These letters being as the law now Stands clearly lost as to the Post Office.

It is proposed to finde out a way to bring these Letters into the Post Office itt being certainly concluded that noe force can fetch the Letters from the Coachmen which are noe flying coaches nor from the Carriers soe long as they continue with their Carts Waggon or Packhorses but by this way which is to contract with the severall Carryers and Coachmen for such Letters which they carry up and downe to send them into the Post Office att one penny the Letter which is under an ounce and threepence the Letter above the ounce or better termes if may be.

The way proposed.—This thing is not purely notionall butt hath been in a great measure practised with successe in the Chichester and Sussex branches, besides itt will appeare to the Carriers and Coachmen to be their interest to comply with such a proposeall (Some of them haveing been discoursed in the thing already and are not averse) for that they shall be sure of a certaine gaine without care or trouble, for by this meanes they shall have noe more trouble with all their Letters then if they had butt one for itt is butt to putt them in a bagge and seale itt and send itt to the office whereas otherwayes they seldome receive anything for them.

Although this way will insensibly destroy them for when people see their Letters come att last to the office they will send them

thither att first and not to the Carriers or Coachmen soe that this course will be a great advantage to the office which ever way itt prove for the office will have the advantage of the whole Letters that are by such meanes drove thither which will not be a few and also the moyety of all such Letters which the Carriers and Coachmen send in, besides the advantage of Double Letters and pacquets which must be considerable.

2^{ndly} Itt will be advantageous to the people who for want of understanding better things are att greater charges to porters for such Letters then they would be from the office.

The proposer hath made a modest and probable estimate of the profit of such Letters cleare of all such charge of procureing to bee about one thousand pounds per annum though probably itt may prove to be more and therefore makes these proposealls.

The proposer to bee att all charge of contracting with the severall Carriers and Coachmen and settleing the same and to bee att the charge of buying in of the said Letters as aforesaid and give His Royall Highnesse five hundred pounds per annum payable Quarterly for five yeares and take all the benefitt of such Letters which are to be weekly accompted for by the office to the proposer and the profit answered, which Letters if this way be taken shall be stamped with a perticular stamp and an accompt kept of them by a perticular bookekeeper to the end that defalcation for Returned Letters may bee made by the proposer and the office take noe wrong.

Or 2^{ly} The proposer will take foure hundred pounds per annum for five yeares and bee att the charge to Contract Settle and manage the same except only the charge of purchaseing in the Letters and then His Royall Highnesse to have all the gaine and if it doth not appeare on the first yeares tryall that the cleare profit of such Letters are above one thousand pounds per annum the proposer will be content with two hundred pounds per annum Dureing the five yeares, or Rather wholly leave itt to His Royall Highnesse pleasure.

It will be a worke of some time and paines to bring all the Carriers and Coachmen into a method and under artickles Butt when done will be of unconceaveable advantage.

J. BIGGS.

II.—“REMARKES UPON THE PROPOSALL OF J B CARRIERS AND COACHES LETTERS &c.”

The comming of Their Letters Sooner, or Later, cannot bee indifferent to Them, the advantage of comming and bringing Letters before their Horses (which Letters are therefore seizable) is

purely to quicken their Return, and thereby Lessen Their expenses in London, and their stay after Their Horses especially for advantage by Letters, each one bringing two pence at Least.

Queery to the second paragraff what are Flying Coaches if Stage Coaches are not? It was certainly the meaning of the Act, that those should be so accounted which changed Horses uppon the Road, and thereby could be at great distance from London in one Day, this persuades People to send by Them especially when wee have no Post going.

The proposall of a penny for every Letter, and 3 pence an ounce is not agreeable to our method for ship Letters, where there is no distinction of great or Lesse in parcell, and it must be also considered, That wee cannot allow to ye Letter which brings but 2 pence equall to that which brings 3 pence postage.

The experiment and successe of Chichester and Surry from whence the Letters are mostly of that sort is not a Regular measure to other Roads, for that the very same arguments which serve against Farming such Letters, Least the Postmasters should confederate with ye Farmer will direct ye same caution to prevent it with ye Complying Carrier &c.

It is agreed That the gathering of such Letters would be of great advantage to The office, and very much dissapoint the Carrier when People are well acquainted with ye change of Their conveyance, But how doth this Reason incourage The Farmer (when their Losse must be his also) and at the same secure his fidellity to the Office.

And that it will be of great advantage to the Publick there remains no Question.

But if the Proposer should succeed to a generall collection of such Letters, I conceive his estimation of their vallue to be infinitely short.

Letters of this kind must be delivered to our Postmaster in ye Country or at ye Generall Office in London, if in the Country Then great part of such Letters may be delivered, after ye Post is gone with his ordinary to the dispatch and charge whereof I find ye Proposer silent, and then being brought by Carriers to the office, which will be generally in the afternoon's. Our Letter Carriers are dispers't into their severall Walk's with their common buisnesse. This also calls for a new charge in making propper dispatches for ye Carrier or some extraordinary method that I cannot yet think of.

From which circumstances I cannot find the Proposall so exemplar to advantage his Royall Highnesse Office as the following.

The greatest part of such Letters are Taken up within 60 miles of London or thereabout and especially on such dayes wherein we have no settled conveyance.

Therefore to Take away the Principall cause, of their going beside the Mile, to save the charge of a penny a Letter to prevent confederacy and secure the advantage Wee have already by other Letters.

The expedient will bee to Ride about 60 miles out upon all dayes of the week the additionall charge whereof to Postmasters will be much Lesse than ye allowance of a penny a Letter in the first proposall.

And that we agree with Carriers for Letters from all places beyond 60 miles. Such Letters will bear a Tax to compensate ye allowance given to the Carrier and being brought 60 miles by Post, will be disperst here in good Time.

But with this caution. That no Carrier should Deliver his Letters immediatly to The Postmaster but to some other Person appointed in the Respective Stages. Who shall direct Them in a Pacquet or Bagge to the Generall Letter Office

T. G.

III.—“FOR YE FARME OF THE POST OFFICE”

It is proposed to Give per annum usuall Defaulcacons being allowed

		£	s	d
To be payd Quarterly	To His Majestie - -	05382	10	00
	To His Royall Highnesse	43000	00	00
Total		48382	10	00

To be payd Downe att entering on the said office one Quarters Rent to His Royall Highnesse and soe dureing the whole Lease the said Rent to be payd Quarterly by aforehand rent for His Royall Highnesse Security.

To Covenant as Counsell shall advise, not to raise the rates or Letters and to expend in the yearly Execution and for the better Improvement of the said office att least £8000 And much more must be, Butt in Regard particular Improvements can not be expressed the charge which must grow therewith can not be calculated therefore noe more to be Inserted in the Covenant.

The way of Improvement humbly proposed is to hinder Coaches and Carriers from Carrying Letters as much as the Act of Parliament will permitt (which is not well lookt to) by erecting new posts in each County as shall be found needful and one or more Pacquett boats, And to take care that such methods be used in all places, for the takeing in and Delivering out of Letters for the Ease of the people that may induce all to bring their Letters into the Office.

If hereafter appeare any other wayes of Improvement Itt shall not be offered to be putt in practise. But with the privity and Consent of His Royall Highnesse.

J. B.

IV.—“ PROPOSEALLS ”

For the better management of the Post Office and to prevent or Remedy all abuses in the Country Comitted by Postmasters or their Servants in Delivering of Letters and for encouragement of all persons to send securely and more Easily by the Post itt is proposed—

That two Comissioners bee appoynted to Ryde the severall Roades and att every Post towne to enquire into all abuses exactions or delays in the Delivering of Letters and to Rectify them &c.

2 To Report where fitting to alter Roades to erect new Stages and branches by horse or foot post to all Markett townes, whether the office hath not hitherto taken care to convey, which are the greater number and to Erect a Letter Office in such townes for the disperseing Letters into the Countreyes about.

3 To Settle the Roads within the Sixty myles of London where the correspondence is most considerable that the post goe every day which will cutt out Coachmen and Carriers in such Roades, and very much accomodate merchants in sending Forreigne Letters.

4 To Reporte Postmasters Sallaryes where fitt to be Lessened where fitt to be increased with the Reasons.

5 To examine the Labells and to give an accompt of the failure of Postmasters and to give directions therein whereby the mayles will be more exactly brought in due houres both in Citty and Country which will be a great furtherance to correspondence and to ease the office.

Itt may bee alsoe further advised for the more advantagious management of the Office in towne and for the setting up new pacquett boates &c.

V.—“OFFICERS NAMES AND SALLERYES BELONGING TO YE POST OFFICE.”

				Sallaries		
Officers belonging to the Inland Post Office—				£	s	d
John Parsons	Accomptant	-	-	100	00	00
Thomas Gardiner	Controler	-	-	100	00	00
Jones	Cashier	-	-	020	00	00
				220	00	00

These two have £100 per annum added to their Salary formerly £100 per annum

				Sallaries		
Clerkes of the Roades—				£	s	d
Chester Road	James Hicks Senr.	-	-	100	00	00
his Assistant	James Hicks Junr.	-	-	040	00	00
West Road	Benjamine Lambe	-	-	060	00	00
Yarmouth Road	Edmond Sawtell	-	-	060	00	00
North Road	John Middleton	-	-	060	00	00
Bristol Road	Richard Myners	-	-	050	00	00
Kent Road	Anthony Halford	-	-	050	00	00
his Assistant	Anthony Markland	-	-	030	00	00
				450	00	00

These three had £80 per annum formerly

				Sallaries		
Window men—				£	s	d
Chapman for Window and Keepeing the Alphabet	-	-	-	050	00	00
Brees	-	-	-	040	00	00
One dead and place Voyd	-	-	-	040	00	00
				130	00	00


				Sallaries		
Sorters of Letters—				£	s	d
Clavill	-	-	-	030	00	00
Low	-	-	-	030	00	00
Letcham	-	-	-	030	00	00
				090	00	00

LETTER CARRIERS AND THEIR ASSISTANTS.

They are in all two and Thirty, and have Eight shillings a weeke Each which in the Yeare comes to six hundred and Sixty five pounds and Twelve shillings.

Mind—that some few of these who come as far as Westminster have Eighteen pence a weeke each more than the rest.

From Addle Hill to Aberdeen.

“ R. EDITOR, ye naether fear God nor regard man, but ye're welcome to Scotland,” was almost my first greeting when I arrived in Aberdeen on the 3rd June, as a delegate to the biennial meeting of the United Kingdom Postal and Telegraph Service Benevolent Society. It was a description of myself as well as a reflection on Scotland that I at once repudiated, yet the only modification allowed by the stalwart Caledonian who uttered it was that perhaps it was nae so bad as all that, but I had certainly no respect for man. And then he proceeded to take the initial steps which have ended in the conviction being firmly rooted in my mind, that the hospitality of an Aberdonian is of a kind so unique and delightful, that there is nothing in the United Kingdom with which one can satisfactorily compare it. But this was not exactly my first impression of the granite city. Stepping out of the station between nine and ten o'clock on a June evening it was the divine, exhilarating, life-giving air that I found myself breathing in, which first delighted me. Edinburgh is bracing, but there is a fierceness and a viciousness about Edinburgh's east wind, coming up as it does through the narrow channel of the Firth of Forth, that makes the tonic which it undoubtedly is to the system, somewhat unpleasant and unappetising. It is the open sea at Aberdeen, and the wind plays all around you rather than through you, as it does in Auld Reekie. And if there were any truth in the Scotchman's description of my mental attitude towards God and man, a breath of Aberdeen air knocked out of me all the irreverent cynicism which had survived a day spent in Edinburgh, and I almost sang the *Venite* and the *Jubilate Deo* on the steps of the Aberdeen railway station. It was joy to experience the mere sensation of existence, and the little worries and anxieties of London life seemed only matters to smile at or to put aside as insignificant.

That first deep draught of Aberdeen air remains my most lasting impression of the city, and I cannot help thinking that there are special reasons for my feeling in the matter. Once or twice in this

magazine I have described the view from different office windows at which I have sat, but hitherto the windows at which I have worked have at least been made to open. The crowded room which I work in at present has not a window that can boast of this liberty, and on a hot day the atmosphere resembles that of a ship's cabin occupied by a number of bad sailors. I am a loyal servant of the Department, and I quite understand that until the war is over there will be no funds available for the purpose of opening the windows; I try to regard the physiological experiment I am making as an interesting one, though, as I have indicated, one which is excessively unpleasant. Anyhow, it is a mistake in the middle of the experiment to visit Aberdeen, though I know there are some philosophers who hold the opinion that joy is only attained by the power to appreciate contrasts. The street in which I work is appropriately named Addle Hill, and I appreciate the evident intention of the architect of my office to construct a building in keeping with the traditions of the street. Indeed my sense of the fitness of things would have been injured if I *could* breathe freely in Addle Hill. We should all sacrifice something for the sake of artistic effect, and for my own part I try to think of the poetry underlying the idea. Occasionally I succeed.

Following out the idea that joy is dependent on the power to appreciate contrasts, no sooner had I taken this draught of Aberdeen air than I was packed off to a smoking concert in an Aberdeen restaurant. Here were the delegates who had already arrived in the city, and the faces of old friends were distinguished everywhere through the smoke and behind whisky tumblers. Draughts, not of Aberdeen air, but of special Scotch, appeared to be at my disposal at every table, but I am anxious to preserve official etiquette at all costs, and my first attempt at refreshment was paid for by my friend Mr. Hegarty, the genial and able postmaster of Aberdeen. The second attempt found an eager host in Mr. John Asher, the founder of the Society, who said, "We have quarrelled with and fought each other, and you have slandered me in that publication of yours, but to-night we are friends."

My annual increment is shortly becoming due, so I will not travel in these pages beyond the second attempt. I retired to bed at 1.40 and rose at 5.30, and I will dismiss the whole subject of this first night by the reflection that of all the pick-me-ups in the world that I have ever tried, there has been none speedier than that early morning walk by the sea at Aberdeen.

Now let me gather up briefly my recollections of the conference

on the second day. There was a most formidable agenda paper, and those who remembered previous meetings, shook their heads sadly at the prospect before them. Besides, after being absent at several of the recent meetings, it was known that Mr. Maggs of Bristol, in company with his nominee, was in the city. But, as so frequently happens when we expect the worst, our gloomy anticipations were not realised, and although there was plenty of irrelevant talk and discussion on trivial points, there was no obstruction, no open defiance of the chair as there has been in past years, and an honest desire to push the business through seemed to animate all the delegates. Mr. Newlands, Controller of Telegraphs,



MR. ASHER.

Edinburgh, was the chairman, and if he erred at all it was in over-indulgence to speakers. But his reward was that good temper prevailed throughout the proceedings. No sooner had the resolution for the adoption of the balance sheet been moved and seconded, than something like a shudder went through the meeting. Mr. Maggs of Bristol was seen on his feet. Cheers and laughter followed the shudder when it was realised that Maggs had discovered a mare's nest. The acting central secretary promptly sat upon him with a dose of facts as they are, and Maggs subsided looking infinitely pleased with himself. He had produced a sensation; he had opened the proceedings; he had shown us that he still possessed teeth, and the object of his interpellation had been attained. For the rest of the meeting Maggs rested on the laurels won at the earlier stage of the proceedings, and interfered very little, and then sensibly and to good purpose. "Is this the Maggs of old?" I asked

myself, when I heard him more than once appeal to the meeting to support the chairman and to get on with the business. I forgive Mr. Maggs for describing *St. Martin's-le-Grand* as a wretched publication, when I hail him as a convert to the views so often expressed by me in past years in these pages on the conduct of public meetings.

There were the usual attempts at high oratory and bold metaphor made at the meeting. One speaker, soaring after allusions and illustrations, referred to the four or five points of the compass. The elasticity of the conception seemed to tickle the meeting, and when another speaker spoke of "the joy in heaven over one sheep that repenteth," and "who joined the society at a late date," it was unkindly said by the enemies of the principle on which our society is founded, that though the man's knowledge of the Bible appeared somewhat mixed, he had aptly described the state of mind of some of the new entrants.

Much of the smoothness with which the proceedings were conducted was undoubtedly due to the great tact shown by the acting central secretary, and by the readiness he showed to meet all reasonable objections in a practical way. He also impressed the meeting with the conviction that he had mastered thoroughly the details of his work. Indeed he was evidently winning votes all day long for his election to the central secretaryship by his tact and knowledge of the duties of the post. And the possession of tact by a central secretary means much in the peaceful conduct of our meetings. If personal considerations only had been taken into account, many of us might have voted for Mr. Nicholson in preference to Mr. Botting, but the latter was the man in possession, and had qualified for the post.

I shall only briefly summarise the results of the proceedings. A reduction of the levy for the central secretary's salary was carried. The agenda paper had been full of resolutions bearing on this matter. With the increase of the society the salary had risen automatically to a sum in excess of what the post deserved, and it was universally agreed that the matter was ripe for treatment. It was decided that in future the expenses of the biennial meeting should be met by a levy of 1d. Under existing circumstances the meeting is a great tax on the town that entertains the Society, which has in the past been eagerly borne, it is true, by every town we have visited, but it is thought desirable that we should visit some of the smaller towns in the United Kingdom that hitherto have been barred to us by the conditions I

have mentioned. Speaking for myself, I hope this levy will be raised judiciously, and that it will be understood that while it is desirable that certain of the moneys obtained should be applied to such expenses of the banquet as the entertainment of invited guests, etc., the delegates will pay themselves for their own tickets in future. I am sure this would be more satisfactory to the delegates themselves, to whom the idea would be most obnoxious that the banquet was being paid for out of the levy made on their colleagues. With this reservation I think the new departure an excellent one, and it places the biennial meeting on a more satisfactory footing. The gratuity branch was the subject of much discussion, and various proposals were carried to meet the growing necessities of this branch. Mr. Botting was elected central secretary by a majority of 90 over the candidate next on the poll, and the Society arranged to meet at Bristol two years hence. I should mention that Mr. Jeffery, of the Inland Branch, who had been a candidate for the central secretaryship, withdrew his candidature before the election came on in favour of Mr. Botting, and spoke very nicely in doing so. Indeed Mr. Jeffery and the Inland Branch won golden opinions for the good sense and ability they displayed throughout the proceedings. I have been rather down on these gentlemen in past years, but I never doubted the great ability of their representatives.

Then there was the banquet in the evening. Rarely has the Society entertained such distinguished guests. Mr. Hegarty made an excellent chairman, and on either side of him sat the Earl of Aberdeen and Mr. Forbes, the King's Commissioner at Balmoral. At the same table were Principal Marshall Lang, the Principal of Aberdeen University, Baillie Maitland, Dr. Angus Frazer, the Editor of the *Aberdeen Journal*, and Mr. Lang, the district manager of the Great Northern Telegraph Company. The presence of Lord Aberdeen was much appreciated by the delegates. He threw himself with genuine enthusiasm into the proceedings, proposed his toasts with humour and fine phrasing, and was almost the last man to leave the dining hall at 12.15. He is a natural, unaffected Scottish gentleman, and he won all our hearts. Many earls and aristocrats seem unable to be easy and natural without somehow destroying the impression which their rank inevitably creates with ordinary men and women. An East-End working man once passed a high compliment on Archbishop Temple, who was then Bishop of London: "What I likes in our Bishop is, he ain't no gentleman." He was thinking of that distressing type of man who thinks it is his

duty to be constantly reminding you that he *is* a gentleman ; he is so evidently nervous that otherwise the fact might not be observed. Lord Aberdeen is a good fellow ; we were all agreed upon that impression of him, and if he sits in the House of Lords by virtue of his birth, he dwells in the hearts of the delegates by reason of his qualities of mind and heart. He proposed the toast of the Postal and Telegraph Service, to which I responded, and later in the



LORD ABERDEEN PROPOSING: "THE POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH SERVICE."

evening the stalwart Caledonian, whom I described in the opening sentences of this article, came up to me and said, "Weel, Mr. Editor, ye were verra hard on Lord Aberdeen. 'Hae ye nae regard for even a Scottish nobleman or for those in authority? 'Deed, an' ye're an irreverent deevil." Of course I replied that as the Earl had treated us easily and naturally, it was the highest compliment one could pay to him to treat him in a like manner, and that I always thought how insufferable it must be to a real gentleman to hear constantly the insincere praises and adulations of those who fawned upon him.

But the Caledonian was unrepentant. "They *are* set over us, aren't they?" was his parting shot, and I was only set at my ease when Lord Aberdeen himself came up to me and said that from enquiries he had made about me, he had discovered that Angelina, who figures in "After Office Hours," was a real living personage, and he was very pleased to know it. I think that some of these Caledonians don't understand the noble earl. Angelina says she does.

I think I ought to mention the exceedingly scholarly, humorous, and graceful speech made by the Principal of the University in proposing "The City and County of Aberdeen." It was undoubtedly the speech of the evening. Songs and instrumental music were sandwiched in between the speeches, and a very fine violin selection by Mr. Alec Sim deserves mention all by itself.

The following day we were all taken by train and coach to Balmoral, where, by kind permission of the King, we had a lunch provided for us in the grounds. In consequence of a peep I had through the windows of the castle, I have returned to town more reconciled to our office furniture. Simplicity even to bareness was the impression I formed of the late Queen's taste in furniture. It would be a lesson to those of her subjects who have ambitious ideas on the subject of furnishing to go to Balmoral and see the exceedingly simple surroundings in which a great Queen lived. We telegraphed our thanks to the King, and before we left the grounds we received a delightful message from him. He hoped we were enjoying ourselves.

From first to last the Aberdeen meeting was a great success. "Aberdeen has done the thing magnificently" was everybody's verdict, and nature came to the assistance of the granite city by providing us with glorious weather. Mr. Maggs was on the side of law and order; Mr. Asher acted the part of the society's grand old man to perfection; the Inland Branch was all smiles, and Mr. Summerfield, Aberdeen's local secretary for years, was as young, hearty and cheerful as ever.

At the banquet I sat next Dr. Angus Frazer, and I approached him delicately on the subject of my health; I intimated that I was threatened with a nervous breakdown, and that I might have to apply to him on the morrow for a medical certificate. I had formed such opinions of Aberdeen's magnificent hospitality that I naturally thought there would be no difficulty in arranging for a week's leave of absence on a medical certificate signed by the genial doctor. But in this intimation I had discovered the limits of Aberdeen

hospitality. Neither during the banquet, when I told the doctor my choicest stories, nor afterwards, could I obtain from him any encouragement; on the question of his public duty he was adamant. 'You may call on me, young mon, to-morrow, but I'll be no party to deceiving your Controller.'

I tried another doctor in the room. I told him I had an "Addle Hill throat." He said, "Not known in Scotland." I replied, "Perhaps you open your windows." He retorted, "We may not see jokes, but we value our lives. Serve you right." Some Scots are so unsympathetic.

So, Dr. Frazer and the other man failing, I left Aberdeen on the Thursday morning, carrying away with me many pleasant memories. It was the ninth of these gatherings that I have attended, and it was in many ways the most enjoyable. A better spirit seemed to be animating the members, and there was a greater disposition to give and take than I have seen present on previous occasions. Why should I account for the change? Have I not already indicated a reason? If when entering a town for the first time your first inspiration is to sing the Venite, you make a good start, and if, as I doubt not, this was the experience of other delegates, our altered characters must be traced in a measure to Aberdeen's glorious air. I should like to have bottled some for use in my City hothouse. I should like to have shown our Addle Hill architect how it is possible to get good work done by men in a pleasant and businesslike manner. It is largely a question of the sort of air they breathe. In bad air, memorials, agitations, and deputations live and move and have their being. I know that in Addle Hill I feel sometimes quite desperate, even dangerous, whereas in Aberdeen I was at peace with God and man.

EDWARD BENNETT.



BALMORAL.

Post Office Burglaries.

NOT all our readers will recollect the great robbery of registered letters from the Hatton Garden Branch Post Office in November, 1881, which was effected with skill, daring, and yet with simplicity as to method. At 5.0 p.m. on the eventful day the members of the staff were busily engaged when, lo! the gas suddenly went out, and the office, which was full of people at the time, was left in darkness. The lady supervisor obtained matches, went to the basement and there found that the gas had been turned off at the meter. When the gas had been turned on again and lighted, it was discovered that the registered letter bag, which had already been made up and was awaiting the call of the collecting postman, was missing. The bag contained 40 registered letters, and their value was estimated at from £80,000 to £100,000. In the twenty years which have elapsed since the great robbery no clue to the perpetrators of the daring deed has been discovered. No further attempts at such robberies took place for some time, but in the year 1888 several daring burglaries took place at post offices in London. The Smithfield Branch Post Office was the first broken into, the thieves staying in the office from Saturday night to Sunday night. During that interval they removed the safe from under the counter, placed it in the Chief Officer's enclosure, broke it open and rifled the contents. Cash and stamps to the value of about £180 were stolen. In the autumn of the same year the Aldgate B.O. was burgled—a Saturday night being chosen for the exploit. The manner in which the burglary was effected leaves little doubt that the depredation was committed by the same gang of thieves. The safe was broken open, but in this case it was left under the counter, where it stood, and was there rifled of its contents. The interior of the office, including a part of the counter under which the safe stood, was fully visible from the outside, the woodwork in front of the office having been kept low for the purpose, and it was marvellous that the thieves were not detected, as a poor woman had just been murdered by “Jack the Ripper” within 200 yards, and the road in front of the post office was

thronged with excited people. The thieves in this case got off with cash and stamps to the value of £328.

Later in the same year, the South Kensington Branch Post Office was entered by burglars under precisely similar circumstances. The thieves only obtained the small sum of £6, as, being disturbed, they decamped in haste, leaving behind them their tools and certain articles of clothing. They had removed the safe, weighing $1\frac{1}{2}$ cwt., from the public office without being observed, although it was taken from a spot immediately in front of a large window, through which police and passers-by could command full view of the office. The Westbourne Grove and Peckham Branch Post Offices were also burglariously entered in the same year. Although the burglars were not discovered in connection with these post office robberies, and none more daring of their kind have occurred since, they probably were imprisoned for some other misdemeanour. Was it—it may well be asked—this same gang of burglars released from durance vile who committed the post office robbery which took place at Westbury-on-Trym, a suburb of Bristol, three miles distant from the city, on the 18th October last? For daring it might well have been they, as the following account will demonstrate.

The post office, be it said, is in the middle of the village and within 200 yards of the Gloucestershire Constabulary Dépôt, and actually within sight of it. It was during the early hours of the morning of the 18th October that the burglary took place. Not far from the post office building operations were being carried on, and from the houses in course of erection the thieves obtained a ladder and a wheelbarrow. Making their way to the side of the premises, one member of the gang by means of the borrowed ladder, effected an entrance through the fanlight over the postmen's room door, and marks of damp stockinged feet revealed the fact that they crept through a sliding window into the post office counter room, where the safe was located. The street door was then opened to their confederates, and the safe, weighing nearly 2 cwt., was carried to the barrow outside. The thieves then retired to a partially completed dwelling for the purpose of examining the contents of the safe. They broke open the carpenter's locker, and many tools were subsequently found on the floor. These evidently had not assisted the gang to any great extent, as they found it necessary to use a heavy pickaxe. The noise they made seems to have aroused the inmates of the neighbouring houses, and it is said that one resident struck a light and actually saw them at work, but he concluded that

they were merely doing something in connection with the extensive drainage alterations which had been in progress for many months. This light apparently disturbed the thieves, for they departed with their burden and the pickaxe and retraced their steps. Close to the Parish Institute they managed, in spite of the darkness, to discover a gap in the hedge, and having forced the wheelbarrow through this, they left unmistakable traces of the route taken across the adjoining field.

Having wheeled the safe some 300 or 400 yards, and some 50 yards beyond the cottages in Canford Lane, they again brought



POST OFFICE, WESTBURY-ON-TRYM.

the pickaxe into requisition; and some hours later a workman discovered the safe, with one end broken into dozens of pieces, lying near the hedge. He at once gave information to the police. It was afterwards found that, although the thieves had removed the paper money from the safe, they had thrown the postal orders, money order forms, stamps, licenses, etc., into a neighbouring field, where they were found strewn about in great disorder. The safe contained postal orders, stamps, postcards, and cash of the total value of £315. Cash to the value of £25 was the extent of the thieves' booty, and they left behind them three £5 notes, half a sovereign, and two sixpences, which were found on the grass. As all the articles were dry, it was apparent that the robbery took place after 2 a.m., up to which time there had been rain. The officials at the office had

begun their morning's work quite unconscious of what had happened when Police Sergeant Greenslade appeared with the handle of the safe.

The fact of the officials not having been disturbed may be accounted for by the circumstance that blasting operations had been carried on at night in the immediate neighbourhood for some twelve months before. The sub-postmistress and her family, it appeared, did not retire to rest until very near midnight, and it is supposed that they were in their first heavy sleep, but it is a mystery why the dog, a sharp fox terrier, remained quiet.

The safe was kept in a prominent position in the shop—two people slept just over it—and the exterior of the shop is well lighted at night by a large public lamp. Sleeping in the house were several females and males, one of the latter being an ex-Sergeant-Major of Dragoons, 6 feet 2 inches in height and of great bodily strength. Next door lives a baker whose workman is about early in the morning, so it may be inferred that the burglars had no small amount of nerve. Within a week another robbery took place at a mansion within a mile of the post office. This occurred in the evening. Whether or not this second burglary was the work of the same gang which carried off the post office safe, there is similar evidence of most carefully laid plans and of intimate acquaintance with the house and the habits of its occupants.

Ere the excitement of these two burglaries had passed off as a nine days' wonder, another robbery equally bold in character took place, and this time in the very centre of the city of Bristol, and in its most frequented thoroughfare. A jeweller's shop window was rifled at 6.0 a.m., at a time when the police were being relieved. The thieves got off with about £2,000 worth of rings, &c. These three burglaries in conjunction seem to indicate the work of one gang of professional burglars hailing probably from the Metropolis.

And now it seems that a post office safe in the West End of London has been rifled, the burglars discarding old methods of violence in breaking it open, and using a jet of oxyhydrogen flame to burn away a portion of the safe door !

R. C. TOMBS.

Holiday Haunts.

I. A NOVEL HOLIDAY.

THE ordinary Civil Servant with a limited income, the prospect of spending a considerable portion of his salary in occupying doubtful rooms in a crowded seaside resort, for the benefit of his family during the holiday vacation, is not a fascinating one. The scanning of numerous advertisements, the answering of letters, and the hurried day trips to see if the place suits, have a tendency to make the average Benedict dread the time when he bids farewell to official duties for a brief respite. Therefore, when a friend suggested to me that I should take my wife for a portion of our holiday on the river, at the same time offering the loan of a camping-out boat, I shook his hand with unusual fervour. The very idea was brilliant—the offer of the boat was magnanimous. It was, however, with some trepidation that I broached the subject to my wife. I led up to it by mentioning beautiful places on the Thames and suggesting how necessary it was that we should have a restful holiday. She was quite candid and admitted the brilliancy of the idea, but reminded me that if we found the ordinary seaside accommodation limited, how could we possibly dwell and sleep in a boat, not to mention the necessary space that would be required for our luggage! To all these difficulties I replied as only a man can do on such occasions. I pointed out the advantages of living in the open air, the charm of the sylvan scenery of the upper Thames, the joy of not being bothered by porters and trains, and last but not least, the novelty of getting away from everybody. It seemed the next best thing to living on a desert island and just as restful. With some misgiving she at last consented to my suggestion. Limiting our luggage to suitable river costumes, we unmoored our boat at Staines, and with fervent prayers for fine weather we got under weigh—that is to say I commenced to scull and my wife steered. Our first halt was to buy provisions and spirit for our cooking stoves. Being rather novices we bought too much of everything—but this is a detail. Owing to our late start and numerous purchases the mileage recorded the first day was insignificant. In fact we halted for the night half-a-mile above Bell Weir. It was a bad place for camping,

but it was getting dark, and in selecting the right bank, which rather hovered over us, it was a case of Hobson's choice. That it was not a good place we discovered in putting up the boat cover, as portions of the overlapping bank dropped inside every time we moved.

Fixing the cover was very fatiguing, and made us very hot but fortunately not cross. Having cooked our supper, to which I may mention, in parenthesis, we did more than ample justice, my wife announced in no uncertain tones that she expected me to wash up throughout the trip, and as the limited space of the boat was against argument, I asserted to this without demur. As an afterthought, I referred to her excellent cookery, and so adroitly was this managed that she told me she had decided to do all the cooking during our trip. Thereat I secretly rejoiced at my diplomacy.

I may explain for the benefit of those unaccustomed to sleeping out in this fashion, that everything is removed from the boat, including the centre seat, before the cover is fixed. Iron hoops are fitted in sockets in the side of the boat, and these hold the canvas in position. There is plenty of room to move about, the distance from the bottom of the boat to the top of the cover being about five feet. It is really surprising how comfortable everything is when all is properly fixed for the night. Our bed was made by putting down mackintoshes and half-a-dozen large cushions. On the top of these we spread thick rugs and blankets. Padded seats with air pillows were excellent rests for our heads.

We were awakened early next morning by birds pattering on the top of the cover. At one time I counted as many as nineteen. The water was perfectly clear, and looking quietly over the side we could see the fish swimming beneath us.

Our breakfast was somewhat delayed owing to the spirit kettle falling in the water, the recovery of which caused so much colliding with the overhanging and crumbling bank that later on it was necessary to cross to the other side to clear the boat. There was so much earth forward that people might reasonably suppose that we were conveying ballast for building purposes. So much time was occupied in making the boat presentable that it was noon before we got under weigh again. The same order of things was preserved—my wife steering and myself sculling. The sun was terribly hot, and by this time we had developed a thirst that almost decided us to risk typhoid and drink river water. The assuaging of this torment is one of the brightest incidents of our holiday that will live in my memory. Two pints of

shandy was my portion, and never has a drink seemed more delightful.

After lunching at Datchet we made our way towards Windsor—my wife still steering. I took the opportunity of informing her that all doctors agreed that sculling was a grand thing for women. In fact I waxed quite enthusiastic (I was getting tired) about the benefits to be derived from this form of exercise, and I really think she was becoming impressed, but unfortunately every boat we passed just at this time had a lady steering and men sculling, and my wife decided that evidently it was bad form for a lady to scull on this part of the river. After an arduous pull, during which I discoursed



OLD WINDSOR LOCK.

sympathetically on the dreadful life of a galley-slave in olden times, we reached old Windsor Lock. Here we rested a little time and admired the view of Eton College in the distance. We had already seen Windsor Castle as the river wound in and out from Bell Weir. Passing through the town with its dirty old barges and ugly coal trucks on the left bank we moored for the night near the racecourse and opposite the Eton bathing place. With the exception of dropping my wife's jacket in the water and tearing it in my haste to recover it with a barbed boathook, nothing eventful happened before morning, and we resumed our journey at a fairly respectable hour. Before leaving home we had arranged for two friends to meet us at Windsor to spend a day on the river (I suggested Eton, as the current runs with great strength between Eton and Bray and one of the friends rowed for his college at Oxford). They turned up as

arranged, and having replenished our larder we journeyed on to Bray. Our only excitement before lunch was picking up a bird which was shot near the bank. It managed to fly to mid-stream, but the sportsman's dog would not take the water. Judging from the owner's face it was the only successful shot that morning, so we took pity on him and fished the bird out with a boathook. As it was still alive we had the unpleasant task of wringing its neck to put it out of its misery. As a reward for our kindness the owner invited us to land on his private ground for our lunch. We accepted the invitation and thought him a most agreeable and polite man until we found that we had spread our cloth close to a wasps' nest. We considered him thoughtless in not pointing this out. Our friends



BRAY.

left us before dark and we camped near Bray for the night. The next morning we spent some time on shore exploring the beauties of this charming little village with its famous church. That night we put up alongside the island above Boulter's Lock, where we had a glorious view of Clevedon. It was an ideal place for camping.

The next day was uncommonly hot, and I much regretted that I had arranged for letters to be addressed to us at Maidenhead Post Office. I left my wife in the boat and tramped a weary two miles to the town. I was quite glad to get back to the cool river. We continued our journey until we reached Cookham, where we had tea and a pleasant ramble on shore. After Cookham Lock and Bridge we came to Bourne End, with its smart sailing craft and pretty house boats. We were a long time getting up to Marlow, with its magnificent Quorn Woods and other delightful scenery. I

should here state in justice to my wife that she did some sculling and a good deal of towing.

Had we been wise we should have stopped at Marlow, as it was getting late, but I was anxious to put up at Hurley three miles higher up. By the time we passed Temple Lock it was really dark, and for an hour we vainly searched for the camping ground up the backwater. Things were becoming serious, and worst of all my wife was getting nervous, as a heavy mist was on the water. It certainly was a wretched predicament. No lights, no inn, quite dark, and I had lost my bearings! After groping for some time we managed to reach



NEAR MAIDENHEAD.

the lockkeeper's house. He was just turning in and was not pleased to see us. However a judicious mercenary transaction took away some of the gruffness in his voice, and he gave me what he assured us were clear directions for finding the camping ground. Alas, our relief was quickly followed by renewed anxiety. We could not find the entrance to the backwater. Those readers who know Hurley will appreciate the situation, as it is really a difficult place to find in broad daylight. Things were getting desperate, so I made for the only human habitation that boasted a light. It turned out to be Sir William Clayton's house. I landed on the lawn, but the rapid approach of several barking dogs caused me to make a speedy return to the boat. The noise fortunately brought out some servants, and thanks to their directions I was able to grope in with

the boat to the mooring place. We were more than thankful when we got the cover up that night. It was after midnight when we finished our repast, and so tired were we from our exertions that we did not wake up until nine the next morning.

There are few places to compare with Hurley for natural beauty. We spent two delightful days wandering through its woods, picking blackberries and nuts. The views from the hills are perhaps the finest on the Thames. The lock itself is charmingly situated, with an old mill by the side. We noticed several artists painting the



OLD HOUSE, COOKHAM.

view from the backwater. One thing surprised us greatly—the mill house was lighted by electricity. A few minutes from the lock is a delightful (except in prices) old inn with some very quaint relics, such as old brasses, copper kitchen utensils, old china, etc., and a few feet from the floor is a brass plate indicating the height of the flood a few years ago. Hurley village is often flooded, but the lock house and mill generally escape. It is a lovely walk to Marlow. At Bisham church I believe that the Vicar particularly invites boating people to attend service in *flannels*. Leaving Hurley we passed Medmenham, with its famous old Abbey, and towed most of the way to Henley. A few hours on shore made a pleasant break. Resuming we pulled lazily up to Shiplake, and

camped for the night near the lock. A party of four men were camping on the same spot. They imparted cheerfulness to the scene by lighting a huge fire and cooking their supper in a cauldron that reminded one of gipsies. Judging from the time they occupied in preparing and finishing their meal, it must have been in celebration of a birthday or some remarkable event; they commenced at six and were still eating when we turned in at ten! We left next morning at 9.30, and our neighbours were again feeding. We sometimes wonder if they are still there—eating.

Through Sonning, Caversham, and Mapledurham we had a fair wind and were able to sail most of the way to Pangbourne, where we



BISHAM CHURCH.

spent two days exploring the beauties of the neighbourhood. Our only excitement here was when an inquisitive and apparently aggressive bull remained near my clothes during my morning dip. The situation was embarrassing and rather chilly, and I was greatly relieved when some farm hands came along and created a diversion in my favour. After a delightful day at Goring we commenced our return journey, and with nothing more adventurous than a ten mile pull in the moonlight between Shiplake and Hurley, where we again worried our old friend the lockkeeper out of bed to open the lock (it was only 9.30 p.m.), we returned safely to Staines, thoroughly bronzed and as fit as the proverbial fiddle. Our trip occupied a fortnight, during which we traversed a hundred miles of delightful

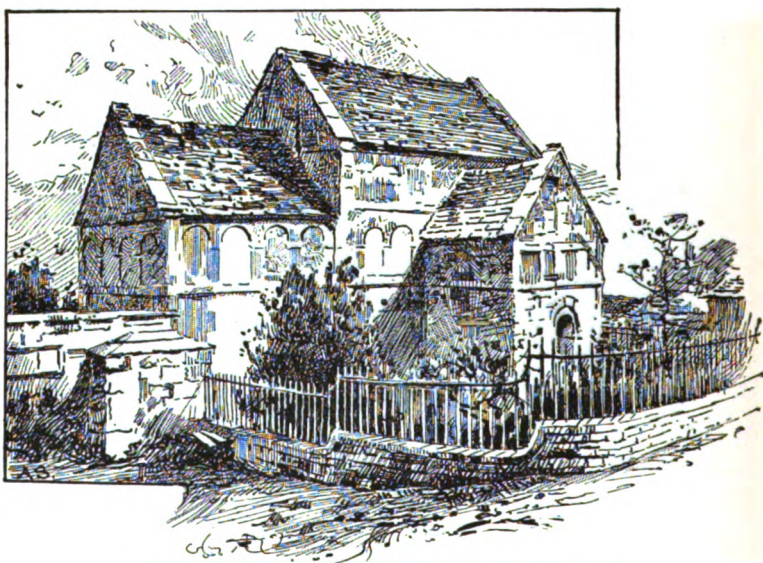
river scenery at a cost which was infinitesimal compared with the usual expenditure connected with a seaside holiday.

ERNEST A. MAY.

A.G.D., G.P.O.

II. BRADFORD-ON-AVON.

To all lovers of archæology, Wiltshire offers a fair field; and perhaps there is no town in that county of more interest in this respect than Bradford-on-Avon. This quaint little place, with its collection of stone houses which bear evidence of bygone days, is



CHURCH OF ST. LAURENCE, BRADFORD-ON-AVON.

pleasantly situated on the banks of the River Avon, and is nine miles from Bath and about twenty miles from Bristol. Even the casual visitor, at the sight of the old-world style of the houses which rise one above another on the hillside, can hardly fail to be impressed with the antiquity of the place.

In the midst of the old buildings, perhaps that which calls for special notice is the Saxon church of St. Laurence, built towards the end of the 7th century. William of Malmesbury, writing about 1115, says that the monastery founded in Bradford by St. Aldhelm was dedicated to St. Laurence. The most extraordinary fact to chronicle in connection with this structure is that it had been

desecrated and forgotten for centuries, and was concealed from view by factories and stables built up against it. Only within recent years has it been brought to light, and this through the instrumentality of Canon Jones, a former vicar of Bradford-on-Avon. The church was, so to speak, literally dug out of the earth, which, in the course of centuries, had accumulated to a very great extent. It is generally acknowledged to be the only perfect building of Saxon times now existing in England, and it does not fail to attract visitors from afar.

The great King Alfred never came into Bradford; but it is recorded that he won many battles in the neighbourhood. Not



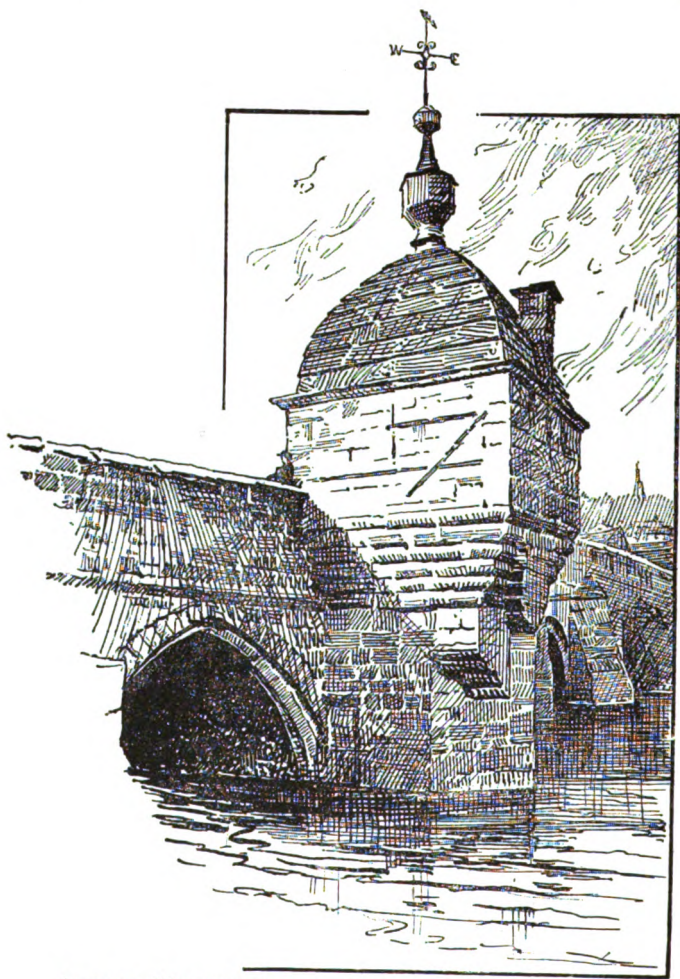
BRIDGE OVER THE RIVER AVON, PRADFORD-ON-AVON.

only did he rescue Wessex from the Danes, but from yet another foe as deadly—ignorance. Fifty years after King Alfred's death a great meeting of the "Witan" was held at Bradford; and at that meeting Dunstan, Abbot of Glastonbury, was appointed Bishop of Worcester.

"All the town of Bradford stonndith by its clooth-making." These words, although they have held true for many centuries, and although to a certain extent still applicable, have lost much of their significance owing to the competition of modern trade and to the introduction of machinery, which has superseded hand-weaving. Previous to the time of Edward III. it had been the custom for wool to be exported to Flanders in the raw state and there made into cloth. The discontent among Flemish merchants, however, gave Edward an opportunity of inviting them to England, and it

was they who brought us a knowledge of how to manufacture cloth.

In 1659, the leading clothier of that time obtained from Holland some spinners with a view to improving the coarser cloth which had



ANCIENT WAYSIDE CHAPEL, SITUATED ON THE TOWN BRIDGE,
BRADFORD-ON-AVON.

hitherto been manufactured in Bradford. As a result of the new conditions brought about by increasing trade, Kingston House—a very fine example of architectural skill—was built in the town. It is

thought probable that the person at whose instance this mansion was erected was one John Hall, a merchant who had a great interest in the cloth industry. It is noteworthy that this mansion, which stands well preserved up to the present time, is the building which served as a model for the British pavilion at the recent Paris Exhibition. It may be said with confidence that Kingston House (or "The Hall," as it is sometimes called) and the Saxon church of St. Laurence are the two great attractions for all visitors to Bradford-on-Avon who are interested in matters archæological.



From a photograph by Mr. J. P. Glover, Bradford-on-Avon.

THE NEW POST OFFICE, BRADFORD-ON-AVON.

From a residential point of view, and as far as its physical features are concerned, Bradford-on-Avon has been well provided for, although the up-to-date citizen, with an inclination for all modern-time requirements, might perhaps pronounce it dull and unattractive. The especial glory of the place is its quaintness and the interesting traditions which yet linger around some of its old buildings. To those who require a rest from the bustle of everyday life in London and elsewhere, Bradford-on-Avon, with its peaceful situation, suggests itself as an ideal spot in which to seek seclusion.

Bradford-on-Avon.

E. S. COLE.

Note.—The first three illustrations are from blocks kindly lent by Messrs. Dolisio and Todd, Bradford-on-Avon.

Our Library Table.

[We draw no hard and fast line as to the kind of books we notice, but, of course, we give the preference to those written by Civil Servants.]

ROMANTIC ESSEX, Pedestrian Impressions. By Reginald A. Beckett.
London. J. M. Dent & Co., Aldine House, W.C. 1901.
Price 3/6.

FEW counties in the United Kingdom have been so libelled as the county of Essex. When Londoners seek an explanation of the fogs of their city they are told to find it in the Essex marshes, and in this way they form a deep-seated prejudice against a really beautiful county. Then perhaps they take a steamboat trip down the Thames, and the low-lying banks of the Essex shore only serve to deepen still further their unfavourable impressions, and if they go ashore at Tilbury, Southend, or even Clacton-on-Sea, they are no less hostile to the claims of Essex. But neither the River Thames, nor the London, Tilbury, and Southend Railway are trustworthy guides in a matter of this kind, and we would recommend, as a first introduction, a journey to Colchester by the Great Eastern Railway. To us that journey was a revelation, and we looked in vain for the marshes of our early dreams. Instead we found hills and dales not inferior to those of Surrey, and woodland and river scenery equal to any in our southern counties. There is a Weald of Essex as well as a Weald of Kent, and the ancient forests of the county still persist in beautiful patches here and there. Why on earth is Essex so neglected, and, by Essex, we mean not Harwich, Clacton or Southend, but the heart of the county, where its beauty is to be found? Mr. Beckett would seem to imply that the neglect it has suffered from is part of its charm, for the result is that there are more out of the way and romantic spots in Essex than in any other of the home counties. Mr. Beckett, who makes the declaration of love, "With me Essex is a passion—almost a religion," is a missionary in her cause, and the object of his book is to popularise the district. Is this real love? Is it passion? Passion is almost always selfish, but Mr. Beckett wants us all to share in his. And except perhaps for a singular absence in his book of an appreciation

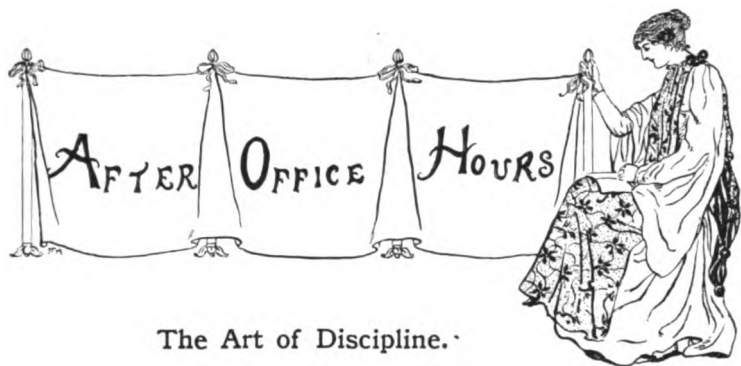
of the lighter side of things and of human nature in particular, he makes an admirable guide. We are glad to see that he pleads boldly for pedestrianism as opposed to cycling, and we agree with him that the man or woman is indeed a fraud who poses as an authority on a district which he or she has only seen from the high roads. The peculiar mission, we take it, of the home counties is to whet our appetite in an easy and practicable manner for the delights of London, and the man is no true lover of London who seeks out occasionally no fresh contrasts by means of which he can stimulate and deepen his love. Mr. Beckett's appeal is to the imagination, to our love of romance, and he even discovers to us "the Soul of Essex." And any week end when we are seeking out the things of the spirit, we can find it if we give ourselves up to Mr. Beckett's guidance.

NAPLES, PAST AND PRESENT. By Arthur H. Norway, author of "Highways and Byways in Devon and Cornwall," "Parson Peter," &c. With forty illustrations from water colour drawings by Arthur G. Ferard. Methuen & Co., 36, Essex Street, London, W.C. 1901. Price 6/-.

Most people with a love of romance and a sensitiveness to beautiful scenery, either dream of Italy as a vision to be realised in some distant future, or they look back upon their visits to her with a remembrance which is best described as a fascination. We all know Mr. Norway's love of romance and his fine feeling for natural beauty, and we do not wonder that he too is drawn to Italy. And Naples, around whose history and chequered fortunes so many stories legendary and true have clung, has inspired him to write a book. It is not a guide book, and yet the traveller is the man who will most care to possess it. Indeed the man who is a complete stranger to Naples, who has not felt her charm, will be a little bored perhaps with the volume, simply because Mr. Norway writes with enthusiasm. Sometimes we think his prose suffers from an overloading of descriptive epithets, and a richness and luxuriance of phrase which have the effect upon the tired reader of an atmosphere charged with the odour of sub-tropical plants. Those who know Italy may appreciate this method, and Italy may be recalled to their minds more easily than by simpler and more cleanly cut sentences, but the untravelled man will find a difficulty in maintaining sympathy with Mr. Norway's high enthusiasm to the end of the book. To say as much as this is in no sense to depreciate the work. For it is

written for the benefit of those who know and who love Naples and it is not intended to compete with Mark Twain's efforts to make Naples intelligible to the Philistines. As in all his other books Mr. Norway tells his historical stories excellently ; he never overloads these ; they stir the blood and appeal to one's dramatic instincts.

Now that Dr. Lunn and other benefactors to the travelling public have made a trip to Naples as easy as a trip to Scotland, and all things considered, a much less expensive trip, there is no excuse for any of us to stay at home. Baedeker will still be found indispensable for the comfort of such a holiday, but Mr. Norway will add immeasurably to its enjoyment. And when you come home you can recall all that you have seen and enjoyed, with the aid of the delightful illustrations of Mr. A. G. Ferard, which add so much to the attractiveness of the book. Both author and artist are Post Office men, and we are proud of them.



The Art of Discipline.

I HAVE been so long in a subordinate position in the Service, and have suffered so much in the past from official tyrants, and the little tin gods who were set over me, that my sympathies with all lowly and much put-upon persons are perhaps abnormally developed. I know so keenly what it is to be misunderstood and to be regarded as a mere instrument by means of which other men climb to position and power, that my heart goes out to all poor folk who are in dependent circumstances. It is the one grief of Angelina's existence that I am over-indulgent to domestic servants. She is always demanding that I should assert my authority. She will not recognise that my training has incapacitated me for the part that she wants me to play. For, indeed, I have had but few opportunities to exercise much authority over anybody, and the love of power, if it was ever a possession of mine, has long since become atrophied. I dare not say in print, what I admitted at the altar, that I am lord of my wife; I had never the inclination or physical ability to command my brothers and sisters, and the only relation in life in which I can claim to have practised the arts of a disciplinarian is that of master towards servant. Angelina, of course, is master of me, and she only allows me the privilege of being called "master" by the servant, because she finds it a useful fiction to be applied for the purposes of discipline. When she talks to the servant it is always in this strain, "Your master wishes this done," "Your master objects to this," "Your master is exceedingly angry with you," and although the implied preliminary consultation with me has never taken place, the effect on the girl of this kind of talk is evident. One new girl shivered and trembled so in my presence that I could not understand what I had done to cause so much perturbation, and it was only when Angelina had gone out one evening that I heard from the girl's own lips that she had been given to understand that my favourite pastime was dismissing girls on the spot for the most venial offences.

At the time that Angelina and I agreed to set up housekeeping together, we were respectively the tenants of bachelor flats, and we

both rejoiced in the possession of treasures in the shape of domestic servants. But this statement, so far as I am concerned, is only partially true, because I had but a half share in my servant. In the morning hours the girl was my servant, but in the afternoon she was the nurse to the children of the lady who lived in the flat below. This excellent arrangement continued even after I had quarrelled with the lady downstairs, over mis-reported conversations about each other, which had been retailed by our mutual servant. Angelina's servant was a picturesque middle-aged party with a somewhat doubtful past, who could never be certain as to what was her correct surname, but if she had been faithless to morals and to husbands she made up for her misdemeanours in these directions by an unbounded fidelity to her mistress.

We arranged to begin housekeeping by taking on my girl as "the general," and Angelina's servant as the occasional help. They both provided "the service" at the "tea and buns" struggle which succeeded our marriage ceremony. While Angelina and I were receiving the congratulations of our friends in Angelina's own studio a furious quarrel was raging in the kitchen over the question of precedence. If the elder servant suggested any particular action, the younger was always ready with the objection that I had instructed otherwise, and that she knew best my ways, and once, when the door of the studio opened, above the din of voices, was heard the stentorian tones of the elder lady, "Oh, yes! it's Mr. Bennett's weddin,' not mine; if 'e says so, it must be so, and must go wrong; I've no call to interfere; it's not me that's bein' married; I see I'm not wanted." And a few minutes afterwards she bounced out of the flat in high dudgeon, not to return to us until after many days. Our domestic troubles began, it will thus be seen, very early.

This precipitate action on the part of the elder lady left the course clear for my domestic, and she came to our new flat as our "general." But the same claim to know better than anybody else my tastes and habits which wrecked her relations with the older servant, soon and inevitably brought her to grief with Angelina. Things became rapidly very warm, and one evening when I returned home from town I was asked then and there to dismiss the girl. She was called in. I tried my best to assume the demeanour of the chief of a department; I spoke severely and kindly to her by turns; I pointed out to her the brilliant future she was wilfully sacrificing; I reminded her of the annual increment of one pound we had arranged to grant her on satisfactory reports of her conduct being received; I even told her I should be sorry to lose her services, and I finished up with the sentence that she must go at once with a month's wages in lieu of notice.

There were the elements of great tragedy in the scene that followed. Angelina sat quite silent with eyes flashing indignation, at one time at the girl, at another time at me. Like Mr. Chamberlain she believed magnanimity was played out as a practical policy, and she feared a surrender on my part at any moment. She only

breathed freely when I uttered the words of dismissal. But imagine her countenance, when the girl, instead of leaving the room at once to put on her things, burst out crying and in heart-piercing tones said, "I want to stay with *you*, Mr. Bennett," with an unpleasant emphasis on the word "*you*." This was compromising enough for me, and I tried to explain to the girl, with impatience gathering in the demeanour of Angelina, that the new domestic responsibilities I had undertaken, not to mention the ordinary conventionalities of civilized life, forbade such an arrangement, and I again requested her to regard herself as dismissed. She left the flat crying. And when I was left alone with Angelina and her wrath I felt like crying too.

Then Angelina's old servant was sent for, and for a time she served us well. But a certain jealousy of me, and an irritation at my influence with her mistress, embittered her existence with us, and we soon found that she was unsuited to her new surroundings. She always and persistently misunderstood me, and regarded me as a monster who would perpetrate any cruelty. She was restive at the mere mention of my name. One day when Angelina tried on the ancient falsehood with her, "Your master objects to this," she replied indignantly, "Then he ought to be thoroughly ashamed of himself," and, indeed, when I heard all the circumstances of the case, I was inclined to agree with her. To tell the truth, this is exactly where Angelina and I differ so in our attitude towards subordinates. I am always endeavouring to understand their point of view, whereas Angelina says that I am paying wages to a girl in order that she may understand mine, and therefore my policy is economically wrong. She is certainly right to this extent, that after six years' housekeeping I have to confess many failures in my own treatment of domestics. For instance, to this particular woman I was exceptionally indulgent, because of her rooted distrust of me, yet she circulated a rumour round the neighbourhood that I was starving her, at the very time that I was not only feeding her to excess, but also, as I found out afterwards, one of the children who were the outward and visible signs of her mysterious past.

Both our treasures having been found wanting we resolved to start again with entirely new blood. On the whole we have been fortunate. Our girls have stayed with us for exceptionally long periods, one even survived two annual increments, and then only left to be married. At first Angelina rather grudged these increments, but when I pointed out to her that it was the custom in the Civil Service, and that I could not be less generous than the Postmaster-General, she gave way. But she always insisted on the girl qualifying for the increment. About a month before it was due she arranged that the girl should wait at my end of the table so that I could watch her and report on her failings; and she used to suggest to me that if I found her lazy and inattentive, we must withhold the increment. From the housekeeping point of view this would mean the saving of one pound per annum, and it was therefore to our interest to disqualify the girl.

I have even heard her suggest wickedly, when another increment was becoming due, that we might perhaps worry the girl into giving notice, and this would enable us to start fair again with another girl at the initial salary. Had Angelina been a Treasury Clerk she would most assuredly have become a K.C.B. There are many men who have won such distinction as the result of a series of petty economies, in which the individual suffers, though the type is maintained.

It has always been my policy to allow "followers." I notice that in the flats where no such permission exists the difference is mainly one of procedure. In these instances, instead of using the front door, as in our case, the young man comes to and returns from his lady-love via the tradesman's lift. And there is so much risk to life and limb in using this lift for anything but parcels, that if a man will boldly venture his life on the enterprise, it is evident he is a lover to reckon with, and no regulations will keep him out. Moreover, in the liberty we allowed to our servants there were compensations. For instance, one of these young men was employed at a West End pork butcher's, and he used to bring to us on Saturday evenings propitiatory pork sausages, and new laid eggs, as thank offerings. This, of course, when it happened, meant that the girl was "out" all the following Sunday, and we had to go to a restaurant. But the sausages were always first class and the eggs were not simply "eggs," they were really "new laid."

Having helped on so materially this love affair, we thought it our duty to attend the wedding, and though we were the only parties in the Church who had not arrived in a carriage, and though we did not wear wedding garments—it was eight o'clock in the morning—we had the consolation of knowing that owing to a loan of money from us, obtained a week before the wedding, the other guests were able to do the thing properly. We returned to our flat sadly that morning, and cooked our own breakfast, which consisted, for the last time, of the propitiatory sausages and new laid eggs from Piccadilly.

Since then, to paraphrase Mr. Wyndham in "The Case of Rebellious Susan," we have had a spare girl, a half-witted girl, and a dishonest girl, and as I write at this moment we are without a girl. Unfortunately for me, when we are in the last named predicament, Angelina finds a difficulty in altering her habits or her hour for rising, and what I should have done this spring without "Ruby Fires"—a most excellent invention for these servantless days—I know not. The tradesmen call up the speaking tube to Angelina, and address her as "dear," and ask which is her evening out, in blissful ignorance that it is the mistress to whom they are speaking, and I am sorry to say, out of pure wilfulness, Angelina sometimes plays with them.

The servant whom we helped to marry was followed by her sister, who at first was extremely jealous of the reputation gained with us by her sister, and she was even anxious to prove to us that we had over-rated her relative. She came in one day in a high state of indignation. She said that after making some purchases, the butcher

asked her for a kiss. "Of course I said, 'not likely,' and what do you think he said? 'Your sister wasn't so pertickler'!" She enjoyed telling us this story of the girl whom we were constantly holding up to her as an ideal.

We have a rather handsome baker, and he disdains the lift, preferring to mount the stairs, and so let himself be seen at the front doors. When our half-witted servant was with us—she was not very prepossessing in appearance—we met a former servant in the street, and she asked us very kindly how we were getting on. She asked us after our new domestic, but her inquiry was peculiar: "Does the baker talk to her?" And when we said that the baker now used the lift, she seemed somewhat relieved, and said, "I didn't think he'd speak much to her: she's not his sort, and I don't think she's your sort either," addressing Angelina. In this she spoke the truth, and when a new girl arrived who appeared to meet with the baker's approval, we felt happier and more secure for the future.

I hope I have not implied that Angelina is hard on domestics. If I spoil them, she redresses the balance by managing them. Mr. Herbert Paul has said of Lord Halifax that "His manners, like all manners which are really good, were the reflection of a kind heart and a genial disposition." All our servants, like their master, have had a wholesome awe of Angelina. She has the true Edinburgh manner; she makes you feel not only her superiority to you, but that you come of an inferior race. She dusts a room with the air of a grand lady; she talks to a "general servant" as if she were the mistress of twenty servants. But when the grand manner has its source in a kindly and genial disposition, there is nothing in the world so nearly approaching to what we know as "good manners." And one sign of this is, that though we lose our girls as servants they keep in touch with us. Whenever the half-witted girl is out of a place, and this happens very frequently, she always calls on Angelina, and Angelina gives her another character. Nobody else has ventured to give her one since she left us, but Angelina's honest account of her capabilities and limitations always finds her a place. It is true this girl described our home to a new mistress as "a muddled sort of a place," but then she was doubtless thinking of her late master's writing table, and the chronic condition of his hair. No man is a hero to his own valet, nor least of all to his general servant.

When we hear of servants who have abused and misrepresented their former masters and mistresses we are angry, and we call them ungrateful. We forget the immense amount of human nature there is in all of us. I once met a former chief in a certain watering place, and shook hands with him. "I used to pray nightly for your death, or at least for your partial disablement," I said feelingly to him, "but let bygones be bygones." "You were a terribly troublesome youngster," he replied regretfully, "let's go and have a drink." And over pipe and glass that man let himself go over the character of *his* old chiefs and past masters. Most of them, from his point of

view, were devils, and towards some of them his hatred seemed to extend even beyond the grave. We are all alike : we all have the same opinion of those who have been set over us. Enough if in the midst of our hatred we can still respect them. A lady I know once nursed a servant through a serious illness, and when the girl recovered she gave notice, on the ground that she wished to be servant to a lady, and she was sure no lady would nurse her domestic servant. That is ingratitude if you like, and is not for a moment to be compared with the usual disrespectful remarks we all make about our masters and mistresses.

Discipline is a difficult thing to maintain, and if we wish to gain a good reputation with both authorities and subordinates, we shall probably end by being despised by both. Personally I prefer the tyrant who makes no effort to conciliate me, to the double-tongued, soft-spoken disciplinarian who seeks, like the Unionist Government, "to kill Home Rule by kindness." With him I must decline to "have a drink," even when he has retired. I should be suspecting an ulterior motive even in his administration of that popular rite.

But the honest master, whom I have honestly abused, and who has honestly maltreated me, is on a quite different footing, and I like him, especially when I am not serving under him. The other kind of man one does not wish to meet with anywhere.

The same feelings doubtless dominate our domestic servants. They all like Angelina ; most of them despise me. Angelina slangs them and punishes them. I speak softly and rarely blame them, yet all their gratitude is towards Angelina, and they suspect me of every sort of unkindness.

You see when the pinch comes I have always to dismiss them, and it is the last action which counts. And when they are gone they know that *I* have to light the fires. They leave the house with this inspiring consolation written on their countenances. As for Angelina, she maintains the grand manner throughout and they all respect her. They know that, come what may, *she* won't light the fires, and so they love her. Is it not natural?

E. B.

Unit 6 Culture

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TO VINDI
ABROCHIAO



MR. CHARLES A. KING.
(*Comptroller and Accountant-General.*)

[To face page 321.]

St. Martin's Letter-Bag.

New Zealand and Universal Penny Postage.

OUR readers will, no doubt, remember that in a recent number, when we reviewed the report of the New Zealand Post Office, we gave expression to a grave feeling of doubt as to the success of the appeal made by that office to all the countries of the Postal Union for reciprocal penny postage. The enterprising colonials had announced to the world that universal penny postage, so far as New Zealand was concerned, would be inaugurated on the first day of the 20th century; and when the time came, a special penny postage stamp, designed with all due appropriateness and bearing a suitable inscription, was put on sale at the colonial Post Offices. We felt it necessary to point out, that under the Postal Union Convention, to which the New Zealand Government is a party, the Postal Administration of one country could not charge lower rates than those fixed by the Convention on correspondence sent to another without previously obtaining the consent of that country to the scheme. The report made no mention of any steps having been taken in this direction; and we naturally felt dubious as to the success of the venture.

The difficulty is reported to have been overcome in a very ingenious manner. As the Post Office had publicly notified the reduction of the postage to all parts of the world, it apparently would not go back upon its word; and any letters prepaid at the rate of 1d. per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., posted addressed to other countries than the United Kingdom and the British Possessions and Protectorates, which are already parties to the Penny Postage Scheme, were selected and stamped with the additional postage required, and sent forward to destination as fully prepaid. This plan was, as the Yankees would say, very smart; and the cost to the Post Office was, of course, merely that of the paper and printing of the extra stamps and the labour required in the selection, weighing and stamping of the letters.

Meanwhile, however, it appears that the negotiations prescribed by the Convention were being prosecuted; and we opened our newspapers the other morning to learn, from an evidently inspired paragraph, that many favourable replies had been received by the New Zealand Post Office from foreign countries, chief among them being Switzerland. Even Germany had not thrown cold water on the scheme of our progressive colony, but had, through its postal chief, written a long letter on the subject in a sympathizing tone. This news has acted upon our official minds like the first helping of

a savoury dish on hungry stomachs; so that now, after the manner of Oliver Twist, we ask for more. What will be the end of it all? Is Universal Penny Postage in sight? We think of Imperial Penny Postage. Who dragged us into that? Was it Canada and "Shuvmenabor, whose eye looketh through crystal," or was it Mr. Henniker Heaton? There may be some doubt on that point; but there will be no doubt about the identity of the pioneer of Universal Penny Postage.

Lord Aberdeen and the Post Office.

LORD ABERDEEN made an extremely interesting speech at the dinner of the United Kingdom Postal and Telegraph Service Benevolent Society at Aberdeen on the 4th June. In particular, he told a story of old Post Office days, which we give in full, and which we think will be especially interesting to our readers.

"They had to go back to get the picturesque aspect of the postal service, to the days of the mail coaches—these were the halcyon days of the poetry and romance of the postal service. The highest ambition of a highwayman, a 'gentleman of the road,' was to rob the mail. That was something, indeed! There was one occurrence in connection with the mails, which he confessed he had thought extremely interesting. He had personal reasons for thinking about it, although it occurred more than 200 years ago, in the time of the reign of James II. We all knew those were troublous times, and in no part of the country more so than in Scotland. There were people, men of honest convictions, who thought the liberties and interests of the country were in danger, owing to the policy of the Government of the day, and they determined to resist, and they did resist—they fought very bravely against great odds. He had no doubt the people of the larger section of the kingdom—in England—said—How ridiculous of these people, never to know when they are beaten, to go on fighting again causing so much trouble. Why don't they understand they are beaten? and why don't they give in accordingly? But the others knew the land and they were determined to resist. There was a certain Sir John Cochrane, son of a fine old nobleman, Lord Dundonald, who was one of the people in this resisting of the powers that were at that time. But he was captured, unfortunately, and was betrayed into the hand of the enemy, the English soldiers, by the wife of an officer who had been killed, and he was taken to Edinburgh and lodged in the gaol there. He was so anxious that his sons should not be compromised by visiting him in prison, that he sent a message to them strictly enjoining them not to go to Edinburgh until the last night when the execution was absolutely decided. One night the door of the prison opened, and he, not thinking it would be any of his family, hardly looked up. Suddenly he heard the voice of his daughter Grisel, who had ventured into the prison. She was allowed to have many talks with him. Meantime the news came that his condemnation had been settled by the Council, and that the mail would come next week when it would certainly bring the death warrant. Miss Grisel

Cochrane told her father that she had to go away a few days. He said, 'I hope you will do nothing rash,' and she replied that she would do nothing very rash. She rode from Edinburgh to Berwick, where her old nurse lived, and there she changed her clothes for the clothes of a boy. Then she left that house and rode to a place between Berwick and Belford, where she made inquiries regarding the King's mail messengers and where they used to put up. Among the places she visited was a small inn about four miles south of Berwick. She arrived there and asked for something to eat. The hostess said she might have the remains of a meal, but told her not to make a noise because in the box-bed the King's mail messenger was asleep. 'Do be quiet,' she said, 'with your knife and fork.' She began her meal. 'Can you get some water.' The hostess said—'Why, a braw lad like you should sup ale.' 'Have you no cool, fresh water? If you give me water I will pay you the same as for ale.' The hostess explained that she would have to go to the well, that it was a long distance off, that it would take ten minutes, but the girl—or rather the apparent boy—persuaded the woman to go for the water. While the woman was away, the girl went to the box-bed—there was the mail messenger asleep—a 'swack' fellow—with his mail-bag under his head, using it for a pillow. On the table were his pistols, and very nervously the girl withdrew the charges. No sooner were they withdrawn than the hostess returned with the water. The girl finished her meal, went on the road, made a circuit, and met the mail messenger and they rode together a bit. After a short chat she drew a little nearer and said—'My friend, I have a fancy for this mail bag.' 'If it is a joke,' said the messenger, 'it is a pretty poor one.' She pulled out a little pistol and presented it. The messenger pulled out his pistols, and snap!—the first missed fire. He threw it away and drew the other—snap! He had to hand over the mail bag, and she rode into an adjoining wood. She opened the bag, drew out an official letter, and rode with it to her nurse's house, where it was found that it contained the death warrant of her father. It was put into the fire. She resumed her girl's clothes and rode quietly to Edinburgh. That caused so much delay, that they managed to get a reprieve and her father was saved. He had a personal interest in that incident, because he understood that Grisel Cochrane was a direct ancestor of Lady Aberdeen. They could imagine he was extremely glad that that mail-driver had not re-loaded his pistol."

A Departmental Aid to Thrift.

MANY of those who have experienced the advantages of the official collection and payment of life insurance premiums by the Accountant-General's Department must, at some time or other, have thought of the ease with which the system might be adopted to aid the thriftily inclined in the huge army of Post Office workers. For in the same manner a deduction might be made from the weekly wages or monthly salary of an official of whatever sum he might desire to have placed to his credit in the savings

bank. A helping hand could thus so easily be given by the department, whose interest in the welfare of its workers is proverbial, that the plan is, I venture to suggest, worthy of favourable consideration.

It is not every civil servant who is blessed with the reputed characteristics of my countrymen of "haudin siccar to the bawbees"; looking, in the manner of the proverbial Scotchman, twice at every "saxpence" ere he lets it "go bang!" This remark may be somewhat uncomplimentary and is by no means flattering; yet from sad experience I must own that it is true in at least one case. The weakness is, so to speak, in the flesh and not the spirit. Having made noble resolutions to put by something for a rainy day, the experience is often that, having omitted to "bank" the sum immediately on receipt of the salary, the good resolutions vanish ere they reach fruition; and the money having been thoughtlessly and perhaps uselessly spent on things that could very well have been done without, another opportunity has gone; whereas, if the money were never handled, the temptation to squander would not be experienced, far less yielded to. How many are there who are now insured who, had they to pay the premium personally, would have lapsed or perhaps never have been insured at all.

The *modus operandi* might be as follows: A preliminary step would be the opening of a savings bank account by the intending depositor. Having formally opened an account with the department, a form authorising the deduction of a fixed amount from wages or salary would be filled in and sent to the Comptroller and Accountant-General. The accumulated sum could be transferred to the officer's account once a year when the depositor's book was forwarded for examination.

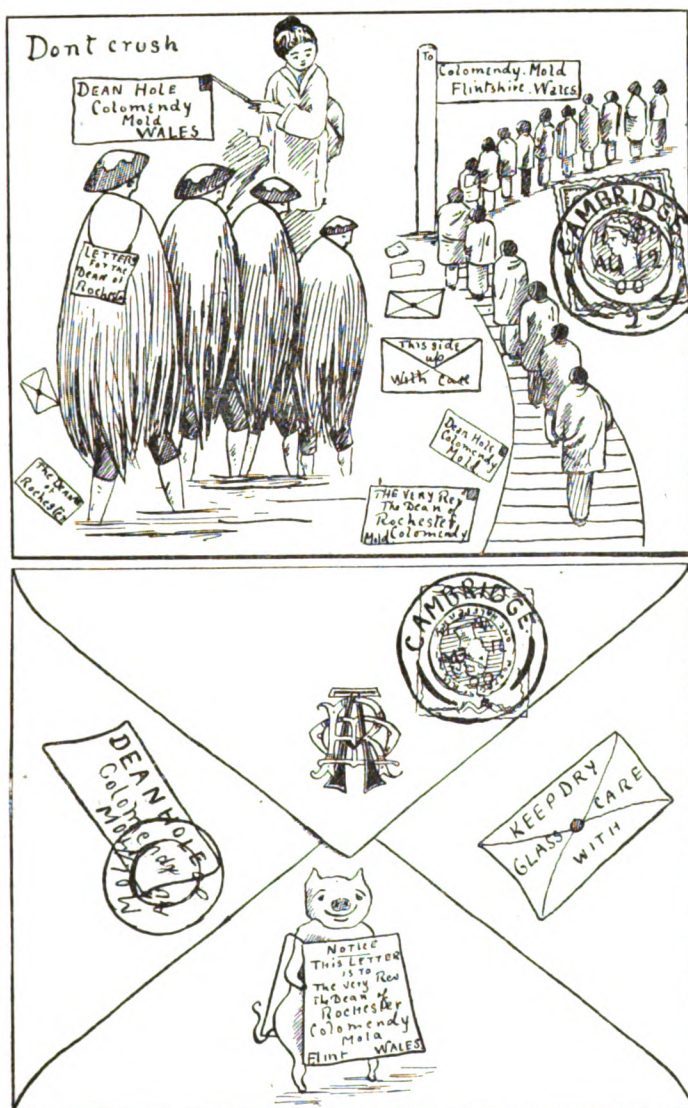
A.T.M.

A Quaint Custom.

WOODSTOCK in Oxfordshire can boast of many curiosities, but few visitors to that historic town are aware of the fact that one of the most unique is in the possession of the postmaster, Mr. E. Prescott. Generations ago, the custom prevailed among the farmers of the district of killing a certain number of pigs and sheep and brewing a portentous quantity of ale on the birth of their first son. The meat was cut up into approved joints and the ale carefully tunned against the twenty-first birthday of the yeoman's heir. When that auspicious day arrived, a great feast was held, whereat the twenty-one-year-old sheep and pigs were washed down with copious draughts of the mellow ale. Any of the fragments that remained, in the shape of uncarved joints, were distributed among favoured guests, and one to be so honoured was Mr. Prescott's father, who received as his portion a piece of a pig and a shoulder of mutton. The former was cooked and eaten fifty years after; the latter may still be seen hanging in Mr. Prescott's kitchen, and it can now claim to have reached the mature age of one hundred years. The strange thing about this antique shoulder of mutton is that it does not appear to have wasted through all these years; its weight to-day is 10 lb. 14 oz. and every British house-keeper would doubtless be satisfied with a fresh joint scaling at that figure.

Dean Hole and his Correspondence.

THIS is the cover of a letter received by Dean Hole when on a visit to Colonel Cooke of Colomendy, Mold, in August last.



At the time the letter was received, there had been a rather long spell of wet weather, and the river Alyn, which flows by the rising

ground on which Colomendy stands, was at the time in full flood. The artist is a young lady of 16 summers, and it will be seen that she has depicted the natives (Welsh) in their historical cloaks wading through the water with the Dean's correspondence and ascending the hill to Colomendy. Her playful fancy is seen in her illustration, at the back of the envelope, of the saying "It is enough to make a pig laugh," and in the way she makes two halfpenny stamps play at hide and seek with each other on different sides of the envelope. Unfortunately for us, the original is delightfully coloured, and our reproduction does not therefore convey all that the artist intends. We are indebted to Mr. C. Maxwell Hibberd for the loan of the envelope.

When in doubt ask at Carlisle.

IF Mr. Percy James, the Postmaster of Carlisle, is not careful, his reputation in America for willingness to supply information on all subjects will be such that Carlisle will become a synonym in that country for "Enquire Within." Among the boys of America he is deservedly popular.

Carlisle, P.A., U.S.A.
1 May, 1900.

To
The Postmaster,
Carlisle,
England.

Dear Sir,—I am a Carlisle boy, and would like you to give this letter to some boy you know who would send me some British stamps, and I will send him some of our stamps in return. Thanking you, dear Sir, very much.

Yours truly,
K—— L——.

Carlisle, P.A.,
June 11, 1900.

My Dear Mr. James,—I thank you very much for your kind letter and for the stamps which you sent me. I send you some of our stamps. I am 14 years old and in a few days will finish my present school term, and next year I will enter the preparatory school of Pickinson College. My family have never been in your city, but my oldest brother has been in England several times. I will send you my photograph. If you have any other varieties of stamps of the United Kingdom I should be pleased if you should send me some. I can get more for you if you so wish.

Yours sincerely,
K—— L——.

Mr. James tells us that the photograph duly arrived, and shortly afterwards the family on tour in Europe (with the exception of the boy) called upon him.

An American lady, in a letter which is underpaid, writes to Mr. James to ask him "to advertise in your papers to find the whereabouts of a family of the name of Smith. I am a daughter of John Smith, now dead, looking for his friends. Please find if possible some members of the family." A few rather ambiguous particulars are given. The picture of John Smith looking for his friends in another world is creditable or discreditable to the friends according to the place each reader may decide upon as the present habitation of John Smith.

But even here the omniscient Postmaster has found a clue in the fact that a sub-postmaster in his district bears the name of Smith, and he is waiting anxiously for the next post to hear whether this is the missing ancestral link.

Another American lady asks Mr. James to hunt up "the most prominent party in his country of the name of Glendinen. If you have ever heard the names of Catching or Phalby or McNeece anywhere in Great Britain, I would consider it a most highly appreciated favour if you would kindly write me all that you may know of their history, or enclose the account of them in the reply of Mr. Glendinen when he writes." The prominent party was found, we hear from Mr. James, but from his silence on the other matter we presume he is still hunting for Catchings or Phalbys or writing their lives. He had 3d. to pay for this interesting letter, and no stamps were enclosed for reply. It is obvious that American correspondents are aware of the frequent instructions which are sent to postmasters from the Head Office to do this or that "without incurring expense to the Department," and they act similarly. Poor postmasters! What are they not expected to do without incurring expense?

The Cows and the Letter Box.

THE peace of the quiet village of Little Somerford, in Wiltshire, was recently disturbed by the disloyal treatment on the part of some boisterous cows of one of His Majesty's letter boxes there. In 1899 the residents in an outlying portion of the village memorialized for additional posting facilities; but when a letter box was authorized no one was found disposed to grant a suitable site in a wall for its erection. It, therefore, became necessary to build a pillar by the roadside for the insertion of the box. The box was well patronized and appreciated by the villagers, as it saved some of them a walk of nearly a mile in posting a letter. The animal community, however, held other views. Cows, especially, regarded the pillar as an obstacle to their free and easy movements when passing by, and gave expression to their resentment by lusty bellowing and fierce glances at the vermilion-coloured box. Matters reached a climax on the 23rd April last, when two cows, more determined than the rest, forced themselves between the pillar and the neighbouring hedge and pushed the structure so persistently and violently as entirely to demolish it. Naturally this event proved the chief topic of conversation amongst the villagers for a while.

The annoyance of some at the damage done and at the inconvenience they experienced whilst the box was temporarily out of use, was expressed in language uncomplimentary to the "coo." Permission was subsequently granted for the re-erection of the box in a wall not far from the old site, and then vexation gave place to satisfaction at the restoration of posting privileges.

It was at the village of Little Somerford that the late Mr. Walter Powell, M.P. for Malmesbury, lived, up to the fatal day when he ascended in the balloon "Saladin," which, it will be remembered, was lost with him off the coast of Dorsetshire on the 10th December, 1881.

Chippenham.

F. TAYLOR.

The Postman and the General.

AT the conference dinner of the United Kingdom Postal and Telegraph Service Benevolent Society, the Editor of *St. Martin's-le-Grand* referred to the fact that postmen were so frequently of a sad and philosophic temperament, and that as they were forbidden to take part in political life they could only form impressions of public men from their experiences in dealing with them in the course of their daily duties. Mr. Bennett went so far as to say that Lord Aberdeen, who had proposed the toast to which he was responding, was only known to his postman as the recipient of more or less rubbishing correspondence, and that the postman naturally pitied rather than envied his lordship. The postman has his peculiar point of view, and he cannot be blamed if he looks at celebrities in a different light to other folks. For instance we take the following from the *Daily Mail*:—

"Bashfulness is certainly not the characteristic of a certain rural postman of Hungerford, who a few days ago happened to be on the station platform there at the same time as General Buller.

" 'I have read a good bit about you, sir,' said the genial postman, holding out his hand, 'but I never had the pleasure of seeing you before.'

"Sir Redvers, recognizing the kindly feeling which prompted this act, shook hands with him heartily.

" 'And this is your missus?' continued the man, turning to Lady Buller, 'and this' (to Miss Buller), 'I suppose, is a daughter?'

" 'I be so glad to see 'ee all,' he concluded in his broad Berkshire dialect, after shaking hands with each.

"The General seemed to enjoy the interview, and gave the man something to drink their healths with before bidding him farewell."

To have read a good bit about General Buller seems hardly sufficient justification for introducing yourself to him, but the case is quite different when the interlocutor is a postman. He cannot by virtue of his office be a respecter of persons.

The late Mr. T. Barlow.

BY the sudden and painful death of Mr. Thomas Barlow, the Deputy Controller of the Central Telegraph Office, on Thursday the 18th April, a valuable officer has been removed from

the public service. Mr. Barlow, who was 61 years of age, joined the Post Office Staff on the 29th January, 1870, when the cables of the various telegraph companies were acquired by the Government, the deceased being an official of the old Magnetic Company, which he joined as far back as 1854. He was promoted to the post of Deputy Controller on February 17th, 1898, in succession to Mr. E. May, who in turn succeeded Sir Henry Fischer, C.M.G., as the Controller of the Telegraph Office. The circumstances attending Mr. Barlow's death were extremely painful. With a friend he attended Her Majesty's Theatre on Wednesday night, and during the performance he was attacked by paralysis. Medical aid was at hand, and the unfortunate gentleman was conveyed to Charing Cross Hospital, where he died on the following day. The funeral took place at Highgate Cemetery in the presence of a large number of sorrowing friends and colleagues, amongst whom were Sir Henry Fischer, Mr. E. May (Controller of the Central Telegraph Office), and Mr. J. W. Eames (Asst. Controller). Almost every department of the General Post Office was represented at the graveside, where there foregathered also many of the deceased's Masonic friends. A portrait of Mr. Barlow was given in our fifth volume, p. 450.

Mr. Edwin Ashton.*

BY the retirement of Mr. Edwin Ashton, Superintending Engineer of the North Wales District, which took place on the 30th April, the Department loses an old and able official. Mr. Ashton joined the late United Kingdom Telegraph Company as a telegraph clerk in 1860, three years later he was promoted to the Engineering Branch of that Company, where he remained until the transfer of the Telegraphs to the State in 1870. For some time previous to this, Mr. Ashton had been engaged jointly by the Company and the Post Office in the construction of new lines and in preparing for the concentration of the telegraphs to numerous Post Offices. After the transfer, Mr. Ashton was appointed Superintendent in the North Eastern Division, where he remained until the re-organisation of the Engineering Branch in 1878, when he was appointed Superintending Engineer of the Eastern District, which had previously been in the hands of Royal Engineers, who are now responsible for the Engineering of the Southern District of England.

Owing to ill health, Mr. Ashton was in 1882, at his own request, released from the charge of the Eastern District, and took up the duties of Relief Superintending Engineer until 1888, when he was offered and accepted the Western District of Scotland. In 1895, he was asked to take charge of the North Wales District.

Whilst Superintending Engineer at Glasgow, Mr. Ashton was responsible for the fitting up of the new instrument room, the installation of new pneumatic and electric lighting plant, and other important work in the Head Post Office of that town. He also

*For portrait see *St. Martin's-le-Grand*, Vol. X., p. 281.

supervised the construction of the Scotch portion of the first Telephone Trunk Line erected by the Department, viz. :—that between Glasgow and Belfast. Shortly after his transfer to Liverpool, he was busily engaged in connection with the transfer to the new Post Office, which involved the laying down of many miles of new underground wire and pneumatic tubes, the installation of electric light, and practically a re-arrangement of the whole of the telegraph and telephone systems in that city. This was completed in 1899.

Mr. Ashton carries with him the sincere good wishes and respect of all his colleagues and subordinate officers. On his retirement, he was presented with a very handsome testimonial from the Engineering officials of the North Wales District. This took the shape of a massive centre piece of silver, and a fishing rod, permanent tokens of goodwill and regard from the donors to their old chief.

Mr. G. A. Yeld.

MR. GEORGE ANSON YELD, J.P., who has recently retired from the Surveyorship of the South Midland District, was presented by the Postmasters and Staff of his district with a handsome secretaire, silver candlesticks and inkstand, a Norfolk cabinet and a salver, together with an illuminated address. Mr. Twiss, Postmaster of Oxford, presided at the presentation, and Mr. Clarke, Postmaster of Leamington, read the address. Mr. Douglas, the Postmaster of Worcester, as a young officer in the district, paid a warm tribute to Mr. Yeld's consideration and courtesy, as did also Mr. Bull, Postmaster of Banbury, Mr. Preddy, Postmaster of Warwick, and Mr. Hook, Postmaster of Bletchley. Mr. Potton, chief clerk of Leamington, said that they of Leamington ought to know Mr. Yeld best, and he had never been known to be other than gentlemanly. Mr. Yeld, in reply, said he had been forty years in the Post Office, and thirty years in that district, and spoke of the enormous increase in Post Office work which had taken place during that period. His recollections of the men of his district would be most pleasant.

It is not too much to say that few men have retired from the service in recent years who will be so much regretted as Mr. Yeld. He followed the ancient traditions of the service, and was able to show that it was possible to be a gentleman and yet a disciplinarian. We wish him long life and a happy evening to his laborious day.

Mr. G. G. Knott.

THE Accountant General's Department has just lost a well-known member, by the retirement, on the 1st May last, under the age limit, of Mr. G. Gawler Knott. Like so many men of note Mr. Knott began his official career in the Money Order Office, which he entered in July 1858; and like so many others he soon left that nursery of genius, being transferred to the Receiver and Accountant General's Department on the 1st April 1860. Here his kindness of heart much endeared him to his colleagues. He was always ready to place his great experience at their disposal, and many a struggling

junior has had occasion to thank him for help in unravelling a tangled official web. The gratitude for the assistance rendered was the greater because it was known that the "Corporal," as he was familiarly called, was fully occupied with his own duties; and it was shrewdly suspected that the time given in helping others necessitated his attendance at the office beyond the time recognised as sufficient by a beneficent Treasury. It may be mentioned that on the very last day of service he attended at the office at 8.40 a.m.

Mr. Knott was asked by his colleagues on leaving to accept, as a token of their regard and esteem, handsome sets of the works of Thackeray, Scott, and Lytton, together with an illuminated list of subscribers, the work of a brother officer. The presentation was



MR. G. G. KNOTT.

made in the G.P.O. North by Mr. Incledon, who after alluding to the zeal and energy displayed by his friend down to the last day of his official career, wished him on behalf of his colleagues long life and health to enjoy his well-earned leisure. A humorous speech followed from Mr. Goddard, and after a few well chosen words of thanks from Mr. Knott, the proceedings terminated with hearty cheers for the "Corporal."

Captain N. R. Howse, V.C.

WE should not be deserving well of our patron saint if we failed to put in a claim on his behalf to participate in so distinguished an honour as a Victoria Cross. That honour has been awarded to Captain Neville Reginald Howse, of the New South Wales Medical Staff Corps, who, during the action at Vredesfort on the 24th of July, 1900, went out under a heavy cross fire and picked up a wounded man, and carried him to a place of shelter.

Captain Howse, who is a F.R.C.S. (Eng.) and L.R.C.P. (Lond), was resident Medical Officer at St. Martin's-le-Grand from October, 1897, to March, 1898. He left that appointment to act as Receiving

Room Officer at the London Hospital, and went to South Africa early in the war. We heartily congratulate him on obtaining the most coveted reward of gallantry, and ourselves on having any part or lot in him.

Mr. G. N. Partridge.

IT is with mingled feelings (writes A.E.) that we refer to the retirement of Mr. G. Noble Partridge, late Superintending Engineer of the South Wales District, who gave up the reins of office in February last. When we observe the gaps which, unfortunately, so frequently occur in the ranks of the pioneers of the service who are still in harness, a pang of regret is awakened in the breasts of the older members. It is, however, some unction to our minds to think that a well merited retirement has been achieved.

Mr. Partridge saw the light of day on the 28th of October, 1842. He joined the Electric Telegraph Company on the 9th of May, 1857, was made Assistant Superintending Engineer at Nottingham in November, 1891, and Superintending Engineer in May, 1896. So runs the brief official resumé of his career. Mr. Partridge took up his post as Superintending Engineer in the South Wales District at a period when the present enormous growth of the State telegraphs and telephones was in its incipient stage. The physical strain involved was such as could only be endured by a strong man; and Mr. Partridge successfully coped with the work, and courageously applied himself to his labours until the very end of his official career. In spite of the anxieties and responsibilities of his position, he retained throughout that pre-eminent virtue of courtesy, which he meted forth to both his equals and subordinates.

We trust that Mr. Partridge may live long to enjoy the fruits of a life well spent in the service of the State; and when we express the hope that peace and prosperity may follow in the train of his retirement, we feel sure our sentiments will evoke an echo in the breasts of all of our readers who had the pleasure of knowing him.

[A portrait of Mr. Partridge appeared in our last volume at page 199].

Mr. Walter Clutterbuck.

THE instrument room at Edinburgh is being rapidly depleted of the older section of the pre-transfer men. In Mr. Clutterbuck the last of the old companies' charge clerks has disappeared from active service.

Mr. Clutterbuck was the son of a Gloucester solicitor, and joined the Electric and International Telegraph Company there as a learner in 1858, receiving his appointment a year afterwards at Plymouth. He subsequently served at the Shrewsbury, Barnstaple, and Bristol offices of that company; but in 1863 he transferred his services to the United Kingdom Company, having charge, at various periods, of their stations at Sheffield, Newcastle, and Leith. At Bristol, he had as a colleague Mr. Hooke, now Engineer-in-Chief, and he served

under the late Mr. Culley when that famous electrician was Superintendent of the Western and South Wales District of the Electric Telegraph Company. At the transfer Mr. Clutterbuck was given a clerkship at Leith, and in 1872 was appointed Superintendent there, but attached to the Edinburgh staff. At the Edinburgh head office



MR. W. CLUTTERBUCK.

he took up a superior position thirteen years ago, and has ever since been held in the highest esteem by the staff there. On the occasion of his departure for the last time he received an ovation which in spontaneity and enthusiasm exceeded anything hitherto witnessed in the Instrument room; and at a later date he was entertained at a *conversazione* by the staff, and presented with a handsome gold albert and pendant bearing a suitable inscription and also a gold and jewelled brooch for Mrs. Clutterbuck.

Mr. Clutterbuck has two sons in the Telegraph Service, one in the Engineering Department in England, and the other in the South African service, whilst his brother is a prominent member of the Town Council of Gloucester.

Mr. John Nunn.

ON the 31st of March last, Mr. John Nunn, Assistant Superintendent on the postal side at Bradford, retired under the age limit regulation. Representatives of every department of the Bradford Office, presided over by the Postmaster (Mr. Storey), met at the Talbot Hotel on the 3rd April to tender their good wishes and to present him with a silver fitted kit bag and dressing case, which had been subscribed for in the office.

Mr. Nunn entered the Post Office at Bradford as a sorter in 1862, and during his 39 completed years of service, he has worked in three Bradford offices, two of which have become too small for the ever-increasing business of "Worstedopolis." He has always taken a prominent part in the social life of the city. His versatile talents

and splendid physique have enabled him to obtain honours in various spheres, among which may be mentioned the theatrical profession, journalism, athletics, swimming, and volunteering.

Mr. Nunn's parents were both actors of note; and some of our older readers will doubtless remember Mrs. Nunn's fine representations of Shakesperian characters. Early in life, Jack—to give him his popular name—wished to follow the same profession; but being dissuaded he entered the Post Office. His dramatic inclination, however, could not be stifled and he won a good deal of local fame as an amateur actor and elocutionist. He also became the district correspondent of the *Era*.

In the field of athletics the older generation of to-day still speak of Mr. Nunn's feats as deeds to be equalled but not easily excelled. His winnings in the athletic world were 27 prizes—chiefly gold, silver, and bronze medals. He served in the Bradford Rifles for more than 20 years and became a crack shot. He was the first man to win the late Rt. Hon. W. E. Forster's prize, and has also taken many others. The social part of his nature has always been to the fore, and nowhere to better effect than in the Post Office. One can hardly mention any effort, whether cricket club, football club,



MR. J. NUNN.

smokers, or the successful postmen's silver band, in which he has not taken an active and leading part. Perhaps this is one of the reasons that, whilst maintaining a warm friendship with the present seniors, he has had such a great influence over the juniors, and, by the tactful exercise of his persuasive powers, has so often prevented friction.

Mr. Nunn's present energy and good health lead his many friends to the reasonable conclusion—as it is certainly their earnest hope—that he will long enjoy his pension. He may be absolutely certain that his old colleagues will always be glad to see him wherever they may be.

H. E. K.

Bradford.



F. W. ALEXANDER.
(Chatham.)



T. H. SPRAGGON.
(Devonport.)



J. R. LEARMONT.
(Bury St. Edmunds.)



F. W. WOODARD.
(Cambridge.)



F. C. HARRISON.
(Rochester.)



J. MACKENZIE.
(Campbelltown.)



I. RICKUS.
(Bury, Lanc.)



J. BARLOW.
(Thirsk.)

+✂ SOME POSTMASTERS. ✂+

[To face page 334.]

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A Golden Wedding.

WE noticed the following in *The Times* of the 3rd instant:—
 “Golden Wedding—HALTON: WELCH. On the 3rd June, 1851, at the Congregational Church, Kentish Town, by the Rev. William Forster, Walter Fox Halton, youngest son of William Halton, of Kentish Town, to Mary Ann, only daughter of Henry Welch, of Camden Town. Now residing at 45, Whitehall Park, Highgate, N.”
 Mr. Halton, who is of course well known to our older readers, was in the Receiver and Accountant General's Office, and he retired from the service in 1892. His eldest son, it will be remembered, was Halton Pasha, for some time Postmaster-General under the Egyptian Government, who died at Cairo in January, 1897, after a short and brilliant career.

St. Martin's-le-Grand offers most hearty congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Halton on completing their fifty years of married life.

Civil Service Insurance Society.

MR. N. J. Highmore (Customs), in the unavoidable absence of Sir R. Knox, K.C.B., presided at the Annual Ordinary General Meeting of this Society, held on the 26th April. There was a good attendance of members, amongst those present being Messrs. H. Joy and F. E. Walker (Savings Bank Department), W. T. Brain (London Postal Service), L. Incledon and C. D. Upham (Accountant General's Office), C. S. Keen (Central Telegraph Office), and F. G. Brown (Secretariat).

The report of the committee of management shows that satisfactory progress continues to be made in each branch of insurance business connected with the Society. During the year which ended on the 31st of December last, 917 new insurances were effected, assuring the sum of £248,027, as compared with 950 policies for £255,472 during 1899. The total number of life policies issued through the medium of the Society since its formation is 17,914 and sum assured £4,771,415.

The life insurances in force on the 31st December, 1900, were as under:—

Number of policies	...	...	...	...	16,374
Total sum assured (excluding bonus additions)	£	4,332,534			
Annual premium (gross)	...	...	...	£	160,696 4s. 8d.

As compared with the year 1899, the rate of increase under fire, accident and burglary insurances was as follows:—

Fire,	about	4½ per cent.
Accident,	about	7½ per cent.
Burglary,	about	12½ per cent.

The total sum that had accrued to the Widows and Orphans supplemental fund up to the close of 1900 was £8,721 16s. 5d., being an addition to the Fund during the year of £1,858 2s. 7d.

A special resolution, proposing the adoption of new articles of association, which the committee had drawn up to embody the

amendments indicated by the chairman at the last general meeting of the council, was adopted.

Sir Ralph H. Knox, K.C.B., late Permanent under Secretary of State for War, and Mr. Alfred Rawlinson, late Taxing Master, Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice, were re-elected by special resolution chairman and councillor of the Society respectively.

Messrs. L. Incledon (A.G.O.) and C. S. Keen (C.T.O.) were re-elected members of the management committee, and together with Mr. C. D. Upham were appointed to serve on the management committee of the Civil Service Widows' and Orphans' Annuity Society.

The Annual Dinner of the Scottish Postmasters.

THIS annual and most successful function was held at the Windsor Hotel, Glasgow, on Friday evening, the 21st June. The Postmasters, of whom some 40 were present, hailed from all corners of the Kingdom—from Maidenkirk to John O'Groats—and they had as guests Messrs. E. D. Thomson, Chief Clerk, Secretary's Office, Edinburgh, J. A. T. Gibb, Accountant, Edinburgh, F. Braid, ex-Postmaster, Glasgow, C. G. Clark, Examiner, Edinburgh, G. H. Gibb, Postmaster, Brighton, J. L. Macdonald, J. S. Harvey and E. C. Griffith, Assistant Surveyors, W. Reid, Chief Clerk, James White, Postal Superintendent, A. Kettles, and Mr. Cadman, of the Post Office, Glasgow.

The gathering was presided over by Mr. Hegarty, Postmaster of Aberdeen, who, after proposing the usual loyal toasts, gave "The Postmaster-General." Mr. Reeves, Postmaster of Inverness, proposed the toast of the "Imperial Forces," and it was replied to by Mr. Kettles, Superintendent of Telegraphs, Glasgow. "The Post Office Service" was proposed by Mr. Braid, who gave a most interesting speech. He was old enough to remember, he said, when the transmission of letters cost from 4½d. to 1s. 4½d. per half-ounce and the boon which was conferred on the public by the introduction by Sir Rowland Hill of the penny postage. He also remembered when it cost 3s. to telegraph from Edinburgh to London. He recalled an incident, fresh to most of those present, when an order was issued from London that in future letters posted unpaid, instead of being delivered to the addressee, were to be opened in the R.L.O., and returned to the senders. So much public inconvenience was caused by this ridiculous instruction that it only lasted a fortnight.

A capital musical programme, contributed to by a number of those present, assisted to make the third annual dinner the most enjoyable of the series. The proceedings were kept up till a late hour, and before separating the Company agreed that Edinburgh should be the next meeting place. The Glasgow Exhibition was visited by the majority of the Postmasters on the Saturday, and a lunch in one of the bungalows brought the 1901 gathering to a fitting termination.

Snippings from Official Papers.

Post Office Steppes, Tasmania.

Jan. 15, 1900.

To Postmaster-General, London.

DEAR SIR,—Wishing to become acquainted with a young English woman, views matrimony, good look, good character, with dark hair, medium height, well formed, dark eyes, good teeth and health, not over 30 years, plain dress, good scholar, spinster, or widow not objected to, but must leave her family with friends. Some young ladies might write soon as possible. I am a young man 26 years of age, farmer and labourer. The young lady must be saving. Can her friends pay her passage out here after been accepted? She must not be a flirt. From counties preferred. The right type of an English-woman. Send photo. A good home in a cold climate, bush home, Tasmania in Australia. I want a well behaved young woman, with all her faculties. Good temper. Here is a chance for a good young lady. I have not been married. It takes about a month or six weeks for letters to reach here.

GEORGE H—.

P.S.—Hoping to be successful with a good wife.

I— Station, Axim
(Gold Coast).

8 May, 1900.

To General Post Master, London.

SIR,—I beg most humbly and respectfully to send in this my humble application asking for a school training in your good house. Should you sir apply to my request and grant me in your house, I shall earnestly endeavour to do the best of my ability the duties that may be involved in that line, and also entrusted in my care. I doubt not that after due consideration a poor orphan lad receive shelter under time worthy command. Thinking myself much more competent enough to discharge with the greatest alacrities, having attended the Wesleyan School here and being as I have got no father or mother I therefore beg to ask you for a better school training in your house at England. I humbly pardon you if you will reply your orphan boy per the first returning Boat As I am under look out for you.

With due Regards

I am your orphan Boy

C. E. O. D—,

Odds and Ends.

WE heartily congratulate Lieut.-Colonel Treble, C.M.G., and Lieut.-Colonel Greer, C.M.G., of the Army Post Office, South Africa, on their recently-acquired and well-deserved honours.

* * *

IN the article published in our last number under the heading "The Foundation and Development of the Universal Postal Union," the authorship of the work there under review was

unwittingly ascribed to a gentleman named Schröter. The book was, however, wholly compiled by the staff of the International Bureau, and was produced in such good style that the greatest credit is due to Mr. Ruffy and his subordinates for this unique addition to the postal archives of the civilised world.

* * *

WE are sorry to hear of the death of Mr. Edward Hugh Rea, C.M.G., who retired from the service in 1891. At the time of his retirement he was an Assistant Secretary of the General Post Office, and was Chief of the Foreign and Colonial Branch. His first appointment dated as far back as 1838. In our second volume we published his portrait, together with an article written by him, entitled, "A Visit to Gibraltar Twenty Years Ago."

* * *

A MOVEMENT is on foot for the establishment of an Orphans' Fund at the Central Telegraph Office and its branches. The proposal which has been adopted contemplates raising by annual subscriptions a fund to maintain the whole or a portion of the orphaned children of deceased officers. Seeing that there are upwards of 3,500 officers employed at the C.T.O., it naturally follows that from amongst such a large staff necessitous cases frequently arise; and nothing perhaps can be better urged in support of the appeal put forward by the promoters of such a worthy cause than the fact that a sum of nearly £500 has been collected in pence during the past 18 years by a lady at that office for the purpose of placing 27 children in various orphanages. Every hope is held out for the success of the movement, and amongst the ladies and gentlemen organising the fund are the Misses Lott and Riorden, Messrs. C. G. Beetlestone, C. Bent, E. B. Bothwell, E. Cooper, G. W. Flood, G. Grant, C. S. Keen, R. R. Fry, W. Prout, and R. J. Taylor.

* * *

MR. RODERICK REID, who has recently been appointed Postmaster of Llanelly, has had thirty years service in the Inverness Post Office, where he was until recently Chief Clerk. In recognition of his services to the town a number of the citizens of Inverness have presented him with a silver salver, and a well filled purse of sovereigns, while his own colleagues have given him a gold watch, and the boy messengers a silver mounted walking stick.

* * *

MR. J. C. E. BRIDGE, a Principal Clerk in the Savings Bank Department, is retiring from the service owing to ill health. Mr. Bridge is a younger brother of Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge, K.C.B., and has been in the Savings Bank since 1868. He has on many occasions been selected to do special work for the Department in its relations with the Savings Bank systems of other countries, and he was respected by all his brother officers for his transparent honesty and sincerity of purpose. As with so many other of his colleagues, the ever increasing strain which the conditions of the Department put upon him brought on a nervous collapse, and the State now loses his services. We wish him swift recovery and length of days.

A TELE-TRAGEDY.



SEND A.B.C's



FEW MORE PLEASE



— MORE —



THANKS, TRY THAT.

[For the benefit of non-telegraphists we may explain that when an instrument is out of adjustment the request "Send A.B.C.'s" is often made. The unfortunate receiver of the message has to send "A.B.C.'s" whilst the instrument is being regulated by them; and he has been known to lose his temper in the process.—ED.]

[NOTE.—It should be clearly understood that these lists are unofficial; but every effort is, of course, made to render them accurate and complete.]

Promotions.

LONDON.

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
S.O.	Pettiford, J. E....	Clk., 2nd Cl. Supply. Est.	1886; Clk., 3rd Cl., '94
"	Appleby, S. C....	Clk., 3rd Cl. Supply. Est.	Clk., 2nd Div., S.B., '97; Jnr. Clk., P.S.D., '01
"	Pink, M. C. ...	" "	Clk., 2nd Div., A.G.D., '98.
"	Toothill, H. T....	Super. for Tel. business, &c.	E.T. Co., '58; G.P.O., C.T.O., '70; Super., Sheffield, '83; Asst. Super., S.O., '86
"	Swift, A.D.M....	Asst. Super., 1st Cl.	M.T. Co., '59; G.P.O., C.T.O., '70; Asst. Super., 2nd Cl., S.O., '99
"	Davis, D....	" " 2nd Cl.	Tel. '76; Over. & Sen. Tel., C.T.O., '97
A.G.D.	King, C. A. ...	Comp. & Acct. Gen.	1870; Clk., 1st Cl., '79; Prin. Clk., '83; Ch. Exr., '86
"	Swayne, F. T....	Ch. Exr.	M.O.O., '67; A.G.D., '72; Prin. Clk., '88; Acct., '92; Cashier, '00; Prin. Bk.-kr., '00
"	Prall, C.	Prin. Bk.-Kr. ...	M.O.O., '66; A.G.D., '72; Prin. Clk., '91; Acct., '92
"	Bradfield, W. ...	Acct.	1870; Exr., '92; Asst. Acct., '98
"	Hartley, J. ...	Asst. Acct.	1870; 1st Cl., '88; Exr., '92
"	Jones, J. T. ...	Exr.	Clk. E. in C.O., '71; A.G.D., '80; Clk., 2nd Div., Hr. Gr., '93
"	Mann, A. D. ...	Clk., 2nd Div., Hr. Gr.	Boy Clk., M.O.O., '77; Clk., 2nd Div., S.B., '78; A.G.D., '90
" C.H.B.	Miss A.E. King...	Clk., 1st Cl.	1886
C.T.O.	Palmer, F. P. ...	Super.	E.T. Co., '65; G.P.O., '70
"	Hilton, C....	Asst. Super., Hr. Gr.	E.T. Co., '65; G.P.O., '70; Asst. Super., '92
"	Phillips, H. T....	" Lr. Gr.	1874; Sen. Tel.
"	Gill, H. D. ...	" " "	1874; Sen. Tel.
"	Dury, W.	Over. and Sen. Tel.	1877
"	Longhurst, H. A.	" "	1877
"	Hart, W.	" "	1877
"	Scoble, C. C. ...	" "	1877
"	Miss M.A. Cooper	Matron	E.T. Co., '64; G.P.O., '70; Super., '83
"	" M. Arundel	Super., Hr. Gr. ...	E.T. Co., '64; G.P.O., '70; Super., '94

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
C.T.O.	Miss M. Robinson	Super., Lr. Gr. ...	E.T. Co., '65; G.P.O., '70; Asst. Super., '85
"	" J. E. Biles	Asst. Super., Hr. Gr.	1870; Asst. Super., '88
"	" L. Boxall ...	" "	E.T. Co., '69; G.P.O., '70; Asst. Super., '89
"	" M. Nicholls	" "	L.P.T. Co., '67; G.P.O., '70; Asst. Super., '90
"	" E. M. Ireson	" Lr. Gr.	1873
"	" H.H. Bredin	" "	1873
"	" C.M. Round	" "	1875
"	" A.A. Cooper	" "	1875
"	" A.C. Quye...	" "	1875
E. in C.O. ...	Vyle, W. W. ...	Super.-Engr., Provs.	E.T. Co., '66; G.P.O., '70; Senr. Clk., E. in C.O., '78; Insp., '85; Asst. Super. Engr., '91
"	Houldsworth, J.G.	Asst. "	M.T. Co., '61; G.P.O., '70; Insp., E. in C.O., '83; Engr., 1st Cl., '93
"	Puttman, W. C.	Engr., 2nd Cl. ...	Tel., C.T.O., '85; Junr. Clk., E. in C.O., '92
L.P.S., C.O. ...	Bullen, H. C. ...	Clk., 2nd Cl.	Stg. Clk., Glasgow, '87; Clk., Cir. Off., '92
" Cir. Off.	Shepherd, J. ...	Insp.	1875; Sr., '78; Over., '93
" W.C. ...	Coley, F.	Over. and Sen. Tel.	1879
" " ...	Thorp, C.	Over.	1873; Sr., '74
" " ...	Morgan, R. S. ...	"	1881; Sr., '85
" " ...	Jones, H.	"	1874; Lobby Offr., '95
" E. ...	Sullivan, E. J. ...	"	1876; Hd. Pn., '87
" " ...	Stewart, A. G.	"	1881; Sr., '87
" S.E. ...	Marsh, I. G. ...	Insp. in Charge ...	1872; O. & S. T., '98
" " ...	Bartlett, J. F. ...	Over.	1873; Lobby Offr., '93
" W. ...	Stapleton, C. ...	"	1871; Lobby Offr., '95
" Padd.	Truman, H. P. ...	Insp.	1870; Sr., '73; Over., '85
" N.W.	Oliver, A. E. ...	Over.	1872; Lobby Offr., '93
M.O.O.	Gibson, A. C. ...	Clk., 3rd Cl.	Asst. Clk., S.B., '96
P.S.D.	Smith, H.	Junr. Clk.	Clk., 2nd Div., A.G.D., '98
"	Price, E. J. ...	" "	Clk., 2nd Div., S.B., '98
"	Tonking, R. ...	" "	Clk., 2nd Div., S.B., '98
R.L.O.	Draper, H. J. ...	Prin. Clk.	Clk., 2nd Div., S.B., '81; S.O., '83; Clk., R.L.O., '89; Exr., 1st Cl., '93
"	Brooks, R. E. ...	Exr., 1st Cl.	Boy Clk., S.B., '86; Clk., 2nd Div., A.G.D., '90; Clk., R.L.O., '82; Exr., 2nd Cl., '96
"	Walsh, T.	Exr., 2nd Cl.	L.P.S., '73; Asst. R.L.O., '77; Clk., '93
"	Phillips, P. W.	Clk.	Boy Clk., '94; 2nd Div. Clk., S.B., '98
"	Bowman, P. F.	"	Tel., C.T.O., '98
S.B.	Cox, H. P. ...	Prin. Clk.	1864; Asst. Prin. Clk., '92
"	Rogers, G. A. F.	"	1869; Clk., 1st Cl., '92; Asst. Prin. Clk., '97
"	Page, H. W. ...	Asst. Prin. Clk. ..	Boy Clk., '70; Est., '71; Clk., 1st Cl., '96

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
S.B.	Russell, C. ...	Asst. Prin. Clk. ...	1869; Clk., 2nd Div., Hr. Gr., '90; Clk., 1st Cl., '97
"	Walliker, E.H.T.	" " ...	Boy Clk., '70; Est., '71; Clk., 2nd Div., Hr. Gr., '90; Clk., 1st Cl., '97
"	Eyles, W....	Clk., 1st Cl. ...	Boy Cl., '73; Est., '74; Clk., 2nd Div., Hr. Gr., '91
"	Rainbach, L. A.	" " ...	Boy Clk., '73; Est., '74; Clk., 2nd Div., Hr. Gr., '92
"	Porter, F. W. ...	" " ...	Boy Clk., '73; Est., '74; Clk., 2nd Div., Hr. Gr., '93
"	Lenn, T. ...	" " ...	Boy Clk., '73; Est., '74; Clk., 2nd Div., Hr. Gr., '94
"	Fieldson, A. L....	" " ...	Boy Clk., '73; Est., '75; Clk., 2nd Div., Hr. Gr., '94
"	Compton, H. S.	" " ...	Boy Clk., '73; Est., '75; Clk., 2nd Div., Hr. Gr., '94
"	Whittingham, H.	" " ...	C.D., '70; Est., S.B.'75; Clk., 2nd Div., Hr. Gr., '94
"	Bowie, A. H. ...	" " ...	C.D., '71; Est., S.B.'75; Clk., 2nd Div., Hr. Gr., '94
"	Undrell, C. R....	" " ...	Boy Clk., '75; Est., '77; Clk., 2nd Div., Hr. Gr., '94
"	Nunneley, F. W.	Clk., 2nd Div., Hr. Gr.	Clk., 2nd Div., '78
"	Bennett, H. K.	" " "	Clk., 2nd Div., M.O.O., '80; S.B., '81
"	Bate, C. E. ...	" " "	Clk., 2nd Div., '80
"	Miss A. Gold ...	Prin. Clk. ...	1884; 1st Cl., '95
"	" R.C Parsons	" " ...	1884; 1st Cl., '95
"	" A. Codd ...	Clk., 1st Cl. ...	Clk., 2nd Cl., '90
"	" E.L. Ellerby	" " ...	" "
"	" M.H. Saunders	" " ...	" "
"	" C. Harwood	" " ...	" "
"	" J. Cordiner	" " ...	" "
"	" L. Burgess	" " ...	" "
"	" H.E.M. Dubois	" " ...	" "
"	" F.A. Gamble	" " ...	" "
"	" F. T. Hobs	" " ...	" "
"	" A.P. Lumsden	" " ...	" "
"	" B. S. Atkins	" " ...	" "
"	" H.M. Madden	" " ...	" "
Sur.'s Dept ...	Whiteman, G. A.	Sur. ...	Boy Clk., S.B., '70; Est., '72; Sur. Clk., Eng., '85; Asst. Sur., Ire., '96

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
Sur.'s Dept. ...	Meals, J. S. ...	Sur.-Travgr. Clk. ...	S.C. & T., L'pool, '91; Man'r., '93
" ...	Philips, J. A. D.	" "	S.C. & T., Leicester, '94; Man'r., '96
" ...	Smith, H.	Insp. Tel.	Tel., '71; Clk., South- port, '91; Insp. Tel., '93; S.C. & T., L'pool., '97

PROVINCES—ENGLAND and WALES.

Birmingham ...	Miss E. E. Baker	Super.	1891; Asst. Super., '97
" ...	Miss E. M. Brown	Asst. Super.	1891
Bury ...	Jones, T.	Ch. Clk.	1873; Clk., '91
" ...	Fleming, G. W...	Clk.	1888
Cambridge ...	Asby, R.	Super. (P.)	1873; Asst. Super., Col- chester, '75; Asst. Super., Cambridge, '98
" ...	Humm, H.	Asst. Super (P.) ...	Tel., '71; Clk., Tels., '96
" ...	Munns, L.	Clk. (T.)	Lowestoft, '80; Cam- bridge, '83
Colchester ..	Rogers, F. H. ...	Clk.	1885
" ...	Miss K. T. Ward	Asst. Super.	1893
Croydon ...	Allaway, C. T....	"	1876; Clk., '86
Derby ...	Gull, J. R.	Super. (P.)	1873; Clk., '93; Asst. Super., '98
" ...	Wykes, W.	Asst. Super. (P.) ...	S.C. & T., Sheffield, '82; Clk., Derby, '96
" ...	Crooks, T. J. ...	Clk. (P.)	1878
Doncaster ...	White, J.	Asst. Super.	1882; Clk., Bletchley, '95
Eastbourne ...	Cork, F.	Super.	1871; Clk., '87; Asst. Super., '91
" ...	Langridge, R. H.	Asst. Super.	1880; Clk., '90
Halifax ...	Lord, R.	Clk. (T.)	1877
Hereford ...	Weskett, F. W...	Clk.	S.C. & T., Cirencester, '82; Gloucester, '86
Huddersfield ...	Broadbent, W....	Asst. Super. (T.) ...	Tel., '76; Clk. T., Hali- fax, '91
Hull... ..	Tompkins, T. E.	" " (P.)	1873; Clk., '91
Kendal ...	Atkinson, R. ...	Clk.	1886
Leamington Spa	Ashford, T.	"	S.C. & T., Wrexham, '83; Leamington Spa, '86
Lincoln ...	Hunt, T.	Asst. Super. (P.) ...	1873; S.C. & T., '75; Clk., '87
Liverpool ...	Tose, G.	Ch. Super. (T.) ...	M.T. Co., '64; Asst. Super., G.P.O., '70; 1st Cl., '90; Super., '98
" ...	Nottingham, C...	Super. (T.)	E.T. Co., '59; Clk., G.P.O., '70; Asst. Super., 2nd Cl., '90; 1st Cl., '94

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
Liverpool	Auger, C. J.	Asst. Super., 1st Cl. (T.)	M.T. Co., '62; G.P.O., Bristol, '70; Liverpool, '74; Clk., '86; Asst. Super., '92
"	Lambert, W.	" "	1871; Clk., '90; Asst. Super., '93
"	Dean, W. H.	" 2nd Cl. (T.)	1875; Clk., '97
"	Lee, J.	" "	1883; Clk., '97
"	Hughes, T. H.	Clk. (T.)	1880
"	Stott, A.	" "	1877
Manchester	Davies, C. J.	Super. (P.)	1870; Clk., '81; Asst. Super., 2nd Cl., '91; 1st Cl., '95
"	Rodway, H.	Asst. Super., 2nd Cl. (P.)	1874; Clk., '94
"	Brooks, R.	Clk. (P.)	1881
"	Birch, T. E.	" "	1883
"	Jackman, J.	" "	1885
"	Stansfield, G. H.	" "	1885
"	Jameson, A. C.	" "	1885
"	Moorhouse, F. W.	" "	1885
"	Halton, W. E.	Ch. Super. (T.)	E.T. Co., '60; G.P.O., '70; Asst. Super., 2nd Cl., '87; 1st Cl., '90; Super., '96
"	Suart, M.	Super. (T.)	E.T. Co., '60; G.P.O., '70; Asst. Super., 2nd Cl., '90; 1st Cl., '97
"	Rickwood, H. D. L.	Asst. Super., 1st Cl. (T.)	E.T. Co., '63; G.P.O., '70; Clk., '90; Asst. Super., '96
"	Marriott, F. D.	" 2nd Cl. (T.)	1870; Clk., '97
"	Jackson, J. H.	" "	1877; Clk., '97
"	Snowball, J. G.	" "	Carlisle, '72; Manchester, '81; Clk., '97
"	Kay, W. K.	" "	1880; Clk., '97
"	Hough, H. S.	Clk. (T.)	1882
"	Wadsworth, J.	" "	1882
Mansfield	Copestake, W. A.	1st Clk.	S.C. & T., Burton, '88; Mansfield, '92; Clk., '99
Newcastle-on-Tyne	Miss C. E. Patterson	Clk. in Charge	1877
Newmarket	Bird, T. W.	Ch. Clk.	S.C. & T., Stafford, '81; Hull, '85; Rugby, '88; Clk., Rugby, '91
Newport, Mon.	Little, A. W.	Super. (P.)	1876; Clk., '93; Asst. Super., '98
"	Bisco, A. H.	Asst. Super. (P.)	Gloucester, '71; Newport, '74; Clk., '93
"	Blowen, E. J.	" "	1874; Clk., '97
"	Hyndman, W. D.	Clk. (P.)	1882
"	Morgan, W. E.	Asst. Super. (T.)	1874; Clk., '97
"	Lewis, C.	Clk. (T.)	E.T. Co., '69; G.P.O., '70

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
Nottingham ...	White, W. T. ...	Clk. (T.)	1874
Penzance... ..	Andrews, S. T....	Asst. Super.	1885; Clk., '91
Plymouth ...	Hamlyn, C. B....	Clk. (T.)	1871
Portsmouth ...	Long, A.	"	1882
Reading	Barnard, T. ...	Clk.	1885
Richmond, Surrey	Allsop, J.	"	1885
Ripon	Thwaites, T. ...	"	1890
Scarborough ...	Robinson, C. L.	"	1885
Sheffield	Freer, A.	" (T.)	1874
Southampton ...	Urban, W.	Ch. Clk....	Clk., '72; Ch. Clk., Guildford, '87; Pmr., Sittingbourne, '00
Swindon	Purser, H. A. W.	Asst. Super.	S. C. & T., Stroud, '83; Clk., Hereford, '93
"	Bridle, G. D. ...	"	S. C. & T., '84; Clk., Richmond, Surrey, '98
Warrington ...	Ford, W. H. ...	Clk... ..	1878
Weymouth ...	New, S. H. ...	"	1885
Worcester ...	Miss A. M. ...	Asst. Super.	1888
	Whitehouse		

IRELAND.

Dublin, S.O. ...	McDowell, T. R.	Clk., 1st Cl.	Clk., 2nd Div., S.B., '84; S.O., Lon., '89; Clk., 2nd Cl., S.O., Lon., '93
" Tel. Off.	Keating, R. J....	Asst. Super., 1st Cl.	U.K.T.Co., '69; G.P.O., '70; Clk., '84; Asst. Super., '91
" "	O'Beirne, J. ...	" " 2nd Cl.	1871; Clk., '96

SCOTLAND.

Ayr	Wilson, W. ...	Clk.	1887
Dundee	Duncan, C. ...	" (T.)	1872
Edinburgh, Tel. Off.	Craik, W.	Asst. Super., 1st Cl.	E.T. Co., '67; G.P.O., '70; Clk., '91; Asst. Super., '92
" "	Gordon, J. ...	" " "	U.K.T. Co., '69; G.P.O., '70; Clk., '81; Asst. Super., Aberdeen, '91; Edinburgh, '95
" "	Warden, T. ...	" " 2nd Cl.	1870; Clk., '95
Kirkcaldy ...	Stuart, C. ...	Clk.	1880

Retirements.

LONDON.

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
A.G.D.	Knott, G. G. ...	Exr.	Clk., M.O.O., '58; A.G.D., '60; Exr., '92
"	Edwards, H. F. ...	Tr.	1879
" P.O.B.	Miss E.I. Miles...	Asst. Super.	Clk., '81; 1st Cl., '84; Prin. Clk., '95; Asst. Super., '98
C.T.O.	• " G.A. Hills...	Sr.	1895
"	Pyne, F. A. ...	Super.	E.T. Co., '53; G.P.O., '70; Asst. Super., '77; Hr.Gr., '87; Super., '95
"	Baker, A. J. ...	Tel.	1879
"	Miss I. T. Anderson	Asst. Super., Hr. Gr.	E.T. Co., '65; G.P.O., '70; Asst. Super., '82; Hr. Gr., '85
"	" A. Berridge	Tel.	L.P.T. Co., '68; G.P.O., '70
"	" E. Cross ...	"	1873
"	" F.E. Atchley	"	1880
"	" B. Rowe ...	"	1881
"	" H. Booking	"	1890
"	• " M. Trumm	"	1898
E.-in-C.O. ...	Partridge, G. N.	Super. Engr....	E.T. Co., '57; Insp., '70; Asst. Super. Engr., '91; Super. Engr., '96
"	Ashton, E. ...	"	U.K.T. Co., '60; G.P.O., '70; Super. Engr., '78
L.P.S., Cont.'s Off.	Ayling, W. H....	Clk., 2nd Cl....	Boy Clk., S.B., '76; Clk., '78; L.P.S., '88; 2nd Cl., '93
" Cir. Off.	Moran, W. ...	Asst. Super.	Clk., '60; Clk. for Stg., '67; Asst. Super., '91
" "	Flahey, A. C. ...	Sr.	1870; Sr., '76
" "	Wood, A. D. ...	"	1878; Sr., '81
" "	Arnott, W. ...	"	1881; Sr., '84
" "	Flannery, P. ...	"	1881; Sr., '91
" "	Wright, L. W....	"	Pn. Godalming, '80; L.P.S., '82; Sr., Cir. Off., '92
" "	• Penning, C. E....	"	1895
" "	• Jones, A. G. ...	"	1898
" W.C.	Russ, H. K. ...	"	1874
" S.E.	Jones, W. E. ...	Over.	1868; Hd.Pn., '80; Over., '86
" S.W.	Sheard, J....	"	1868; Hd.Pn., '81; Over., '91
" "	Miss C. J. Davis	C.C. & T.	1890
" W.	Miss J. Kittle ...	C.C. & T.	1872
" N.W.	Russell, J. ...	Insp.	1863; Sr., '68; Over., '84; Insp., '90
M.O.O.	Miss H. E. Renwick	Clk., 1st Cl.	Clk. 2nd Cl., '75; 1st Cl., '81

• Awarded a Gratuity.

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
M.O.O. ...	Miss B. M. Smith	Clk., 2nd Cl. ...	1888
" ...	" E. F. Mitchinson	" " ...	S.B., '98; M.O.O., '00
" ...	" A. M. O'Dwyer	" " ...	1896
" ...	" E. P. Ansell	" " ...	Girl Clk, '97; Clk., '00
Sur. Dept. ...	Yeld, G. A. ...	Sur. ...	Clk, Sunderland, '59; S.B., '63; S.O., '64; Sur. Clk., '66; 1st Cl., '68; Asst. Sur., '83; Sur., '86

PROVINCES—ENGLAND and WALES.

Bath ...	Jones, J. ...	Insp. of Pn. ...	1860; Insp., '73
Birkenhead ...	Miss M. E. Shankland	S.C. & T. ...	Cardiff, '77; Aberdare, '84; Birkenhead, '93
Birmingham ...	Over, H. ...	" ...	1873
Bournemouth ...	Hall, J. H. ...	" ...	Banbury, '94; B'ham, '97; Bournemouth, '99
Bradford ...	Nunn, J. ...	Asst. Super. (P.) ...	1862; Clk., '81; Asst. Super, '91
" ...	Attwood, W. F. ...	" ...	E.T. Co., '61; G.P.O., '70; Clk., '85; Asst. Super, '91
Bristol ...	Miss E. M. Mackay	S.C. & T. ...	1893
Bury ...	Whitehead, T. C. ...	Ch. Clk....	M.T. Co., '58; G.P.O., Bury, '70; Clk., '89; Ch. Clk., '91
Canterbury ...	Burns, J. ...	S.C. & T. ...	Berwick, '87; Canter- bury, '01
Cardiff ...	Thomas, W. J....	" ...	1874
Hull... ..	*Davis, T. N. ...	" (Brough S.O.)	1899
Liverpool ...	Isley, G. ...	Asst. Super., 1st Cl. (T.)	E.T. Co., '60; G.P.O., '70; Clk., '81; Asst. Super., 2nd Cl., '90; 1st Clk., '98
" ...	*Barnes, J. ...	S.C. & T. ...	1895
Manchester ...	Sirett, C. H. ...	Super. (T.) ...	E.T. Co., '57; G.P.O., '70; Asst. Super., '71; 1st Cl., '84; Super., '90
" ...	Smith, E. P. C...	S.C. & T. ...	M.T. Co., '63; G.P.O., '70
Market Drayton	*Miss F.T. Holmes	" ...	1894
Newcastle-on- Tyne	" M. J. Atkinson	Clk. in Charge	1877; Clk. in Charge, '90
Northallerton ...	Smithson, H. R. ...	Pmr. ...	1867
Northampton ...	Smith, F. ...	S.C. & T. ...	1882
Norwich ...	Drake, R. B. ...	Insp. of Pn. ...	1865; S.C. & T., '74; Insp., '77
Penarth ...	*Miss S. K. Jones	S.C. & T. ...	1894
Romford ...	*Symonds, H. W. ...	" ...	St. Ives, '97; Romford, '99

* Awarded a Gratuity.

RETIREMENTS.

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
Southampton ...	Edney, J. T. ...	Asst. Super. (T.) ...	E.T. Co., '62; G.P.O., '70; Clk., '86; Asst. Super., '93
Stourbridge ..	Miss H. Hayman	S.C. & T. ...	Newark, '85; Stourbridge, '00
Warrington ...	Adlard, H. C. ...	„ ...	E.T. Co., '66; G.P.O., '70

IRELAND.

Belfast ...	Kennedy, T. ...	S.C. & T. ...	1879; S.C. & T., '87
Dublin Stg. Off.	Conran, P. ...	Asst. Super., 1st Cl.	1866; Sr., '71; Over., '84; Clk., '91; Asst. Super., '94; 1st Cl., '99
„ Tel. Off.	Barker, A. H. ...	„ „	E.T. Co., '57; G.P.O., '70; Clk., '81; Asst. Super., 2nd Cl., '91; 1st Cl., '94
„ ...	Smith, H. ..	S.C. & T. ...	1860; Sr., '69
Londonderry ...	Smyth, R. S. ...	Pmr. ...	Clk., Belfast, '57; Pmr., Londonderry, '67
Waterford ...	Davis, J. ...	S.C. & T. ...	M.T. Co., '55; G.P.O., '70

SCOTLAND.

Edinburgh, Tel. Off.	Clutterbuck, W..	Asst. Super., 1st Cl.	E.T. Co., '58; G.P.O., '70; Clk., '72; Asst. Super., 2nd Cl., '81; 1st Cl., '91
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Deaths.

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	SERVICE.
A.G.D.	Bate, S.	Clk., 2nd Div. ...	Boy Clk., S.B., '91; Clk., 2nd Div., A.G.D., '92
"	Cartlidge, T. J... ..	Tr.	1879
C.T.O.	Barlow, T.	Deputy Cont. ...	M.T. Co., '54; G.P.O., '70; Deputy Cent., '98
"	Douglass, B.	Asst. Super., 2nd Cl.	E.T. Co., '65; G.P.O., '70; Sen. Tel., '86; Asst. Super., '95
"	Wood, W. G.	Tel.	1883
"	Jeary, J. R.	"	Sub. Tel. Co., '81 C.T.O., '89
"	Ward, C. G.	"	Sub. Tel. Co., '80; G.P.O., '89
"	Winkle, J. H.	"	S.C. & T., Stoke-on- Trent, '81 to '86; Tel., C.T.O., '94
"	Smith, G. J.	"	1898
Cir. Off.	Bambrick, S.	Sr.	1861
"	Salter, J. H.	"	1876; Sr., '80
"	Ransley, W. C.	"	1882; Sr., '84
"	Latimer, C. W.	"	1891
E.	Slaughter, T.	Over.	1867; Head Postn., '77; Over., '91
S.E.	Hebditch, J. W.	Sr.	1889; Sr., '90
"	Heaford, W. J.	"	1897
W.C.	Hone, B. S.	C. C. & T.	1898
Beccles	Thompson, S.	Pmr.	1883
Blaenau Festiniog	Hughes, R. H.	"	Sub. Pmr., Four Crosses, Carnarvon, '77; Pmr., Blaenau Festiniog, '86
Bridgwater	Kibley, S.	S.C. & T.	1881
Brighton	Grabham, A.V.H.	"	1890
Launceston	Tucker, W. G.	"	1892
Liverpool	Slee, J. H.	"	1888
Manchester	Roberts, A. T.	Asst. Super., 1st Cl. (P.)	1874; Clk., '86; Asst. Super., 2nd Cl., '94; 1st Cl., '98
"	Williams, R. E.	S.C. & T.	1879
Mitcham	Hayward, E. G.	"	1896
Northampton	Finch, J.	Clk.	S.C. & T., '74; Clk., '87
Sheffield	Skidmore, F.	S.C. & T.	1886
Sunderland	Holmes, G. R.	Clk. (T.)	E.T. Co., '69; G.P.O., '70; Clk., '98
Wokingham	Walker, T. H.	S.C. & T.	1897
Belfast	Cleary, J.	"	Maryboro., '97; Belfast, '99
Castlebar	Sheridan, J. B.	Pmr.	1874
Cork	Eason, W. T.	S.C. & T.	1870
Dublin	Fogarty, J.	Asst. Super.	Tel., Linerick; Dublin, '81; Clk., '91; Asst. Super., '99
"	Woodcock, J. P.	S.C. & T.	1890
Edinburgh	Whyte, A.	Clk. (T.)	Tel., '70; Clk., '91
"	Christie, J.	S.C. & T.	1879

Postmasters Appointed.

OFFICE.	NAME.	PREVIOUS APPOINTMENTS.
Chelmsford... ..	Corry, V.	Boy Clk., Clk., S.B. ; Clk, 2nd Cl., S.O.
Chesham, Amersham..	Samuel, B. L.	S.C. & T., Liverpool
Esher	Cooper, A.	S.C. & T., Clk., Guildford
Gillingham	Fielding, D.	S.C. & T., Clk., Bolton
Hereford	Ilisley, J. S.	E.T. Co., S.C. & T., Falmouth, Insp. E. in C.O., Pmr., Maidenhead, West Hartlepool, Newton Abbot, Gravesend
Holywell	Evans, W.	S.C. & T., Clk., Stockport
Leek	Ostler, A.	Clk., Asst. Super., Lincoln
Llanelly	Reid, R.	S.C. & T., Clk., Ch. Clk., Inverness
Ramsbottom, S.O., Manchester	Hoyle, A.	S.C. & T., Manchester
Swanage, S.O.	Eagle, E. J.	S.C. & T., Weymouth, Southampton
Teddington, S.O. ...	Marsh, J. W.	S.C. & T., Newcastle-on-Tyne, Brighton
Tenby	Hancock, F. B. ...	S.C. & T., Clk., Plymouth
Tring	Chuter, T.	Tel., Clk., Asst. Super., Croydon
Urmston, S.O.	Percival, A.	S.C. & T., Altrincham ; Sub. Pmr., Ramsbottom
Wokingham	Schooling, C. W. ...	Tel., C.T.O., Luton, Bolton, Leamington Spa ; Sub. Pmr., New Street, Huddersfield
Yeovil	Neeves, J. H.	Clk., Brighton ; Ch. Clk., Dover
Cashel	McElhoney, J. J.	S.C. & T., Charleville, Thurles
Londonderry	Fraser, A.	Clk., Glasgow ; Pmr., Jarrow, Gosport, Gravesend, Douglas
Youghal	Kelly, A. J.	S.C. & T., Bristol
Blaigowrie	Kinnear, J.	S.C. & T., Clk., Asst. Super., Glasgow
Crieff	Thomson, W. P.	S.C. & T., Ayr, Greenock ; Sur. Sta. Clk., Asst. Hd. Sta. Clk.
Dalbeattie	Braid, D. H.	S.C. & T., St. Andrews, Edinburgh
Dundee	Taylor, W.	E.T. Co., Clk., Ch. Clk., Inverness ; Pmr., Perth, Stoke-on-Trent
Dunfermline	Richardson, W. ...	Tel., Glasgow ; Pmr., Crieff
Hamilton	Murray, J.	S.C. & T., Aberdeen ; Clk., Pmr., Wick
Portree	Philip, J. McA.	Sr., Asst., Retr., Edinburgh

ABBREVIATIONS.

Acct., Accountant ; Asst., Assistant ; C.C. & T., Counter Clerk and Telegraphist ; Ch., Chief ; Cl., Class ; Clk., Clerk ; Cont., Controller ; Div., Division ; Engr., Engineer ; Exr., Examiner ; Gr., Grade ; Hd., Head ; Hr., Higher ; Insp., Inspector ; Jr., Junior ; Lr., Lower ; Offr., Officer ; Over., Overseer ; P., Postal ; Pn., Postman ; Pmr., Postmaster ; Pms., Postmistress ; Pr.-Kr., Paper-Keeper ; Prin., Principal ; Prob., Probationary ; Prov., Provinces ; Retr., Returner ; Sec., Secretary ; Sen., Senior ; S.C. & T., Sorting Clerk and Telegraphist ; Sr., Sorter ; Stg., Sorting ; Sta., Stationary ; Supply., Supplementary ; Sur., Surveyor ; Super., Superintendent or Supervisor ; Tech., Technical ; Tel., Telegraphist ; Temp., Temporary ; Tr., Tracer ; Wtg., Writing.

St. Martin's-le-Grand.

THIS Magazine is unofficial. It is published quarterly, during the first week of January, April, July, and October, and is sent free to subscribers all over the world at *three shillings per annum, payable in advance*. It will save trouble and expense to the management if local agents are willing to receive and distribute copies to the subscribers in their respective districts, but if it is specially desired copies will be posted separately to the subscriber's address.

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Our readers at home and abroad are reminded that this is an amateur Magazine, and that if it is to fulfil its purpose and maintain its interest, they must help us by sending articles for publication, newspaper cuttings, drawings, photographs, notices of events, &c., either to the Hon. Editor,

EDWARD BENNETT,	} c/o MESSRS. GRIFFITH & SONS LD.,
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Extracts from Testimonials.

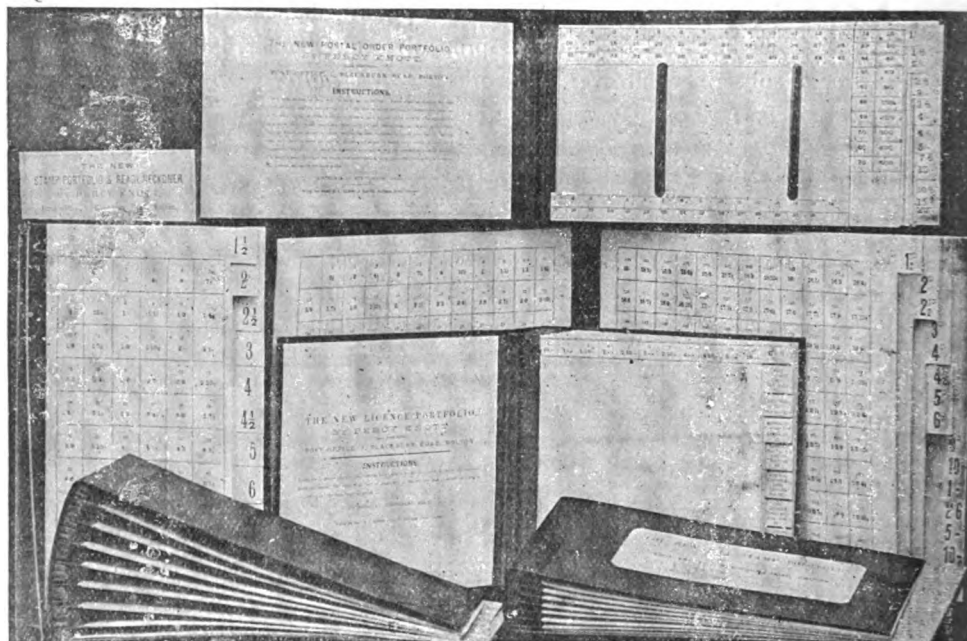
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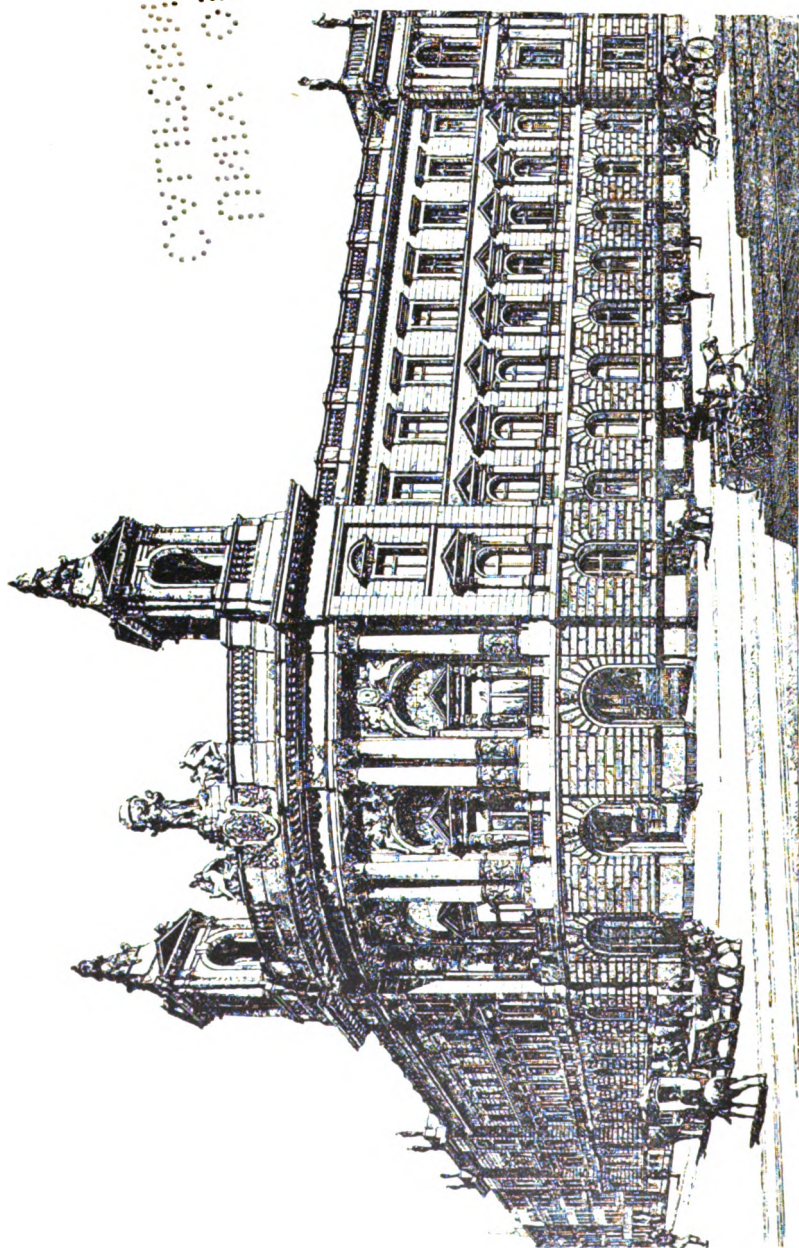
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THE POST OFFICE MUSEUM, BERLIN.

[Frontispiece.]

ST. MARTIN'S-LE-GRAND.

OCTOBER, 1901.

Telegraphy in the Nineteenth Century.

N July the 25th, 1837, the first practical trial of telegraphy was made between Euston and Camden, on the London and North-Western Railway, by Cooke and Wheatstone. Nine tedious years were spent in endeavouring to create enthusiasm among financial circles for this young and novel means of communication. The first company formed to develop the business of transmitting and delivering written telegrams was incorporated in 1846, and was called the Electric Telegraph Company. Wires were speedily extended to every flourishing centre of trade along the great railways that were then being developed, and about 1851 the business was fairly established. Telegraphy and railways have grown up side by side. In 1851, submarine telegraphy was proved to be practicable. Cables were laid in 1852 and 1853 to France, Belgium, Holland, and Ireland, and from that year domestic and international telegraphy grew and prospered. The Electric Telegraph Company suffered the fate of all prosperous initiators of that which is novel, useful, and successful. The validity of their patents was contested, the strength of their business was assailed all along the line by enterprising competitors. Their monopoly was broken; but the public gained by this active rivalry greater development of communication and considerable reduction of rates. We see the same process going on at the present day with respect to telephones, but with less success.

The rates for messages, which were as high as 12s. 6d. for twenty words, were based on a sliding scale. The rates for a message of twenty words were fixed at 1d. per mile for distances under fifty miles, then $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per mile up to 100 miles, and $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per mile for a distance of more than 100 miles; addresses forming part of the twenty words. A message to Glasgow cost 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per word, to Manchester 5 $\frac{1}{10}$ d.

Various reductions took place from time to time. In 1864, that is in less than twenty years, three great companies competed in every principal town for this profitable business of telegraphy. The United Kingdom Telegraph Company was formed in 1861 to introduce the universal shilling rate; but the severity of the competition of their opponents was too great for this spirited company, and they had, in 1865, to submit to the following general tariff:— Within London and other towns, 6d.; within 100 miles, 1s.; within 200 miles, 1s. 6d.; over 200 miles, 2s., addresses being sent free.

The public now began to suffer. Only the larger towns, where profitable business could be tapped, were served. The smaller towns were neglected, and great villages had to suffer the aggravation of seeing posts and wires pass through their main thoroughfares without being able to avail themselves of this speedy mode of communication.

Telegraphy became a necessity of the age for the due and proper transaction of business. It became so closely allied with other modes of communication, that public opinion, in 1868-9, forced the Government to purchase and absorb all the telegraph companies, and to transfer their business to the care of the Post-office, which had shown itself so capable in dealing with letters and newspapers, and in establishing the penny post.

The telegraphs of this country again became a great monopoly; but there is a vast difference between a monopoly in the hands of a private speculative corporation, subject to no control but that of its own close ring, and whose sole object is to earn dividends, and a monopoly in the hands of the Government, whose sole object is to serve their masters, the public, faithfully and well, and whose actions are incessantly supervised by the jealous and watchful eyes of those they serve, who have an equally watchful and much less tolerant press in which to air their wrath and grievances, and an active House of Parliament ever ready to counteract and reform real abuses when fairly and properly laid before it.

It is impossible to conceive supervision more complete than that to which the Post-office is subjected. The receiver of every letter, the transmitter of every message, the editor of every newspaper, the reader of every news despatch, every householder or business man, can see for himself how his own business is conducted; he can growl and grumble to his heart's content at any error or delay that may occur, with a certain knowledge that his complaint has been heard, and, if just, remedied, although he may not always be satisfied with

the attention he receives. The telegraphic business of this country has reached its present dimensions because the work has been done well, and it has been done well because the mode of doing the business has been so well and so thoroughly supervised by the public.

The transfer of the telegraphs to the State took place on February 5th, 1870. The tariff established by Parliament was a uniform tariff of 1s. for twenty words, addresses being sent free, and this tariff remained in force until October 1st, 1885, when the present simple word tariff of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per word, irrespective of distance, and including addresses, with a minimum of 6d., was introduced.

The average cost for the transmission of a telegram immediately before the transfer was 2s. 1 $\frac{2}{3}$ d. After the transfer it was reduced to 1s. 1d. It is now 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

The number of offices open to the public prior to the transfer was 2,932, but owing to the existence of three large companies in the same town, the number of towns in telegraphic communication was probably not more than 2,500. There are now 11,512 offices open to the public. [Table I.]

TABLE I.

Statement of Number of Telegraph Offices open at the end of each period of five years since the Transfer:—

	Post Offices.	Railway Stations.	Totals.
At the transfer (5th Feb., 1870)	1,058	1,874	2,932
On the 31st March, 1871 ...	2,171	1,903	4,074
" " 1875 ...	3,706	1,879	5,585
" " 1880 ...	3,924	1,407	5,331
" " 1885 ...	4,512	1,515	6,027
" " 1890 ...	5,673	1,679	7,352
" " 1895 ...	7,409	2,252	9,661
" " 1900 ...	8,851	2,337	11,188
" " 1901 ...	9,171	2,341	11,512

But the amount of business done is a better criterion of the benefits that the public have derived from the transfer of the telegraphs to the Post-office. At the close of the year 1870, the gross receipts of the Telegraph Department were £612,301; at the close of 1886 they were £1,787,264, and at the close of the last financial year (1900-91) £3,459,353. The number of messages transmitted in 1869 was 6,000,000; in 1870, there were 9,850,177; in 1880, there were 26,547,137; in 1890-91, there were 66,409,211;

and in 1900-01 there were 89,576,961. [Table II.] It is significant that during the year last ended, for the first time since the transfer, there has been a slight decrease in the number of telegrams transmitted compared with the preceding year. The diagram on the next page exhibits graphically the rate of growth of messages and

TABLE II.

Year.	Miles of Wire.	Public Messages.	Receipts.	Expenditure.
			£	£
1870-71 ...	68,998	9,850,177	612,301	350,376
1875-76 ...	113,216	20,973,535	1,287,623	1,106,912
1880-81 ...	121,052	29,411,982	1,633,886	1,308,453
1885-86 ...	170,196	39,235,813	1,787,264	1,832,401
1890-91 ...	195,262	66,409,211	2,456,764	2,388,581
1895-96 ...	230,682	78,836,610	2,879,794	2,920,341
1899-00 ...	328,337	90,415,123	3,460,492	3,749,084
1900-01 ...	345,603	89,576,961	3,459,353	3,812,569

wires, and it illustrates pointedly the result of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per word tariff, the success of which has exceeded all estimate and anticipation.

The development of telegraphy is better shown in our great central station than anywhere else. The following Table is interesting:—

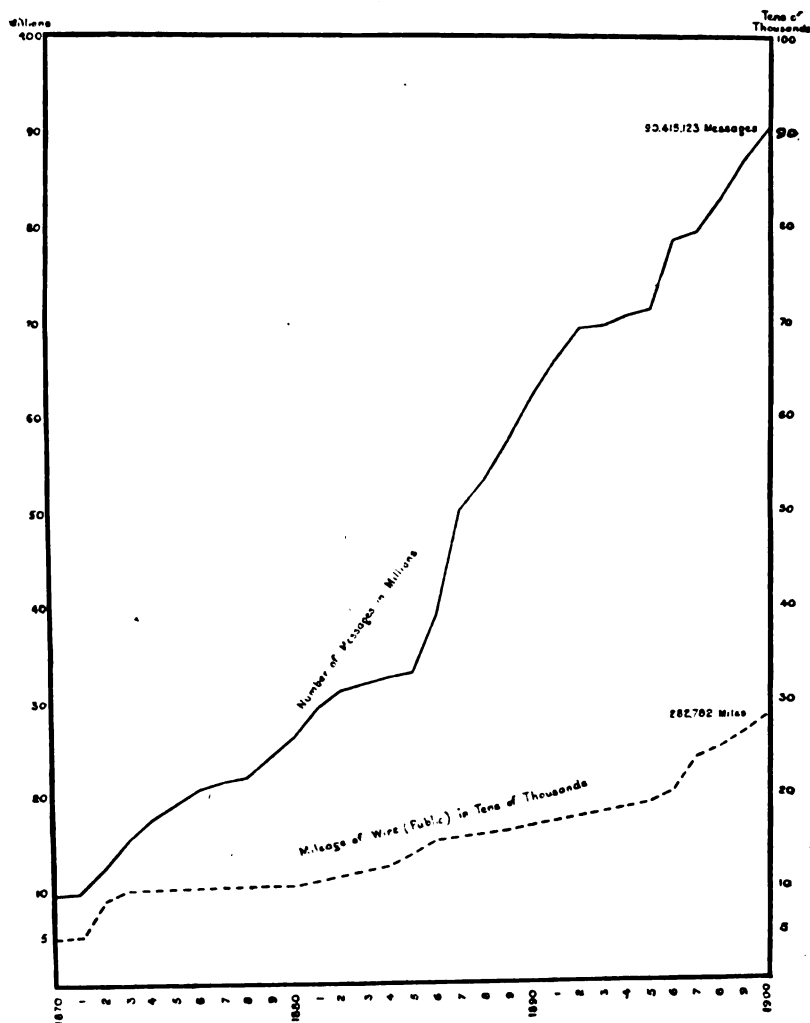
TABLE III.

Date.	One day's Messages.	Instruments.	Staff.		
			Male.	Female.	Total.
Before transfer }	8,500	—	—	—	—
1870	12,000	350	280	485	765
1880	43,000	486	826	598	1,424
1890	133,831	1,059	1,921	855	2,776
1900	182,629	1,169	2,451	1,205	3,656

The number of messages dealt with each day ranges from 100,000 to 200,000, nearly half of which are transmitted messages which have to be both received and forwarded, and therefore

become, practically, two messages, although they count as only one in the total.

The local traffic in London—that is, messages emanating from



one part of London for delivery in some other part, and passing through the central station—is very large. It ranges from 20,000 to 25,000 messages per day. In 1868 there were 60 offices open in the metropolis, dealing with 300 messages per day; there are

now 550 offices, dealing with an average of 22,000 messages a day.

PRESS ARRANGEMENTS.

One of the great objections raised against the absorption of the telegraphs by the State was the difficulty which the Government would have in transmitting news. In no country is there now such a complete system of telegraphy for news purposes as there is in the United Kingdom. Following is a complete list of news wires from the Central Office. Most of them are open day and night :—

1. Birmingham, Manchester and Liverpool.
2. Nottingham, Sheffield, Leeds and Bradford.
3. Bristol, Cardiff, Exeter and Plymouth.
4. Newcastle, Edinburgh and Glasgow.
5. Dundee and Aberdeen.
6. (At 2 p.m.) Newcastle, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee and Aberdeen.
7. Dublin, Belfast, Cork and (at 6 p.m.) Londonderry.
8. Northampton, Leicester and Derby.
9. Bath, Gloucester and Newport.
10. (At 2 p.m.) Bolton, Blackburn and Preston.
11. Portsmouth and Southampton.
12. York, Middlesborough, West Hartlepool, Sunderland and South Shields.
13. Brighton.

The more important of these circuits are duplicated, with a third made up to carry the extra work after 6 p.m. Frequently indeed, and especially during the Parliamentary Session, a fourth wire is needed to some centres.

There are several other groups in the provinces served from these centres. Each office on each of these groups receives simultaneously the news sent from London. Many newspapers obtain the use of special wires, with clerks' services, from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m., no less than twenty-four wires running from London to the great centres of population being utilised in this way. Other provincial newspapers, even more enterprising still, enjoy the sole use, night and day, of private wires between their London offices and their headquarters. There are sixteen such wires connecting London with the large provincial towns, and the rentals paid for their use are very heavy.

Whenever any great political event arises, such as the delivery of a great speech, all the important towns throughout the kingdom receive simultaneously a *verbatim* report of the speech. There is not a town in the country where a daily paper is printed which is not placed, after 6 p.m., in direct communication with London, and where there is not deposited on every subscriber's breakfast table a nearly *verbatim* report of the previous night's debate in Parliament.

The press rates are very low. The average price paid is a little in excess of 2d. per 100 words. This entails a loss to the Department roughly estimated at £400,000 a year, which is the amount the public is taxed for the support of the press. It is doubtful whether Parliament knew when it passed this low rate that it virtually meant a subsidy to the press. The loss might be very materially diminished if there were less competition and more union among newspapers and news agencies. As it is, the same matter has frequently to be sent twice over the same route, and the amount of unnecessary news sent, and therefore, unnecessary expense, is enormous, much of it finding its way into the waste-paper basket. The supply of news, before the transfer, was very meagre. Reuter's telegrams, Parliamentary reports, general news, markets, races, were supplied for £200 a year. The companies did this jointly, and news was collected as well as distributed; but the Post Office is simply a carrier. It is not allowed to collect, and it is thus saved much of the obloquy that attached to the irresponsible monopoly of the telegraph companies. The average number of words supplied to each newspaper was said to be 4,000 a day. It is now roughly estimated at about an average of 12,000 in the recess, and 15,000 or 20,000 in the session.

The following will give some idea of the total number of words sent on one evening, on important political occasions, from the central station:—

April 8th, 1886.—Mr. Gladstone's Home Rule Bill, 1,050,500 words. No single night's work since has equalled this.

April 16th, 1886.—Land Purchase Bill, 841,500 words.

June 7th, 1886.—Irish Government Bill (Division), 863,700 words.

Table IV. shows how rapid and great has been the increase in this branch of our business.

TABLE IV.

Statement showing the number of Press Telegrams dealt with during one week in each of the years 1885, 1887, 1890, 1895, and 1900, i.e., 1-52nd part of the number for each year.

	1885.	1887.	1890.	1895.	1900.
Number of Telegrams delivered	83,175	88,510	95,673	110,527	140,321
Number of Words delivered (estimated)	9,980,968	10,621,246	11,480,751	13,263,254	16,838,522

These figures include all Press Telegrams, i.e., Prepaid, Pass, and Classified Services.

APPARATUS.

It is, perhaps, in the character and form of the apparatus used to transmit messages that the greatest progress has been made. It is difficult to say whether increased business has led to better apparatus, or whether improved apparatus has led to large business. One thing is certain, that the better the work is done the more is business encouraged, and work cannot possibly be well done if the apparatus used for discharging that business is inefficient or backward. When the Post Office assumed the control of the telegraphs, it amalgamated into one department an incongruous combination of various systems, worked by differently trained staffs, due to various companies having been formed at different periods to work different patents. The Electric Telegraph Company established the needle system of Cooke and Wheatstone, the printing system of Bain, which merged into that of Morse, and the various improvements patented by Varley; the Magnetic Company fathered the magnetic system of Henley and the bell system of Bright; the British Company introduced the system of Highton; the United Kingdom Company promoted the beautiful type-writer of Professor Hughes; and the Universal Private Company was established to introduce the simple A B C system of Wheatstone.

We had telegraphs that appealed to the eye like the needle, those that appealed to the ear like the bell, some recorded signals in ink like the Morse, others printed their characters in bold type like the Hughes. Some were slow but simple, like the A B C, others were fast but complicated, like the automatic. Time and patience were

needed to consolidate into homogeneity this heterogeneous collection of telegraphs and telegraphists. Some years elapsed before the doctrine of the survival of the fittest was established.

Now, in 1901, the predominant telegraph instruments are the simple sounder and the fast speed automatic recorder. Reading by sound is confined almost exclusively to the United Kingdom and to the United States. In Europe there is scarcely a sounder outside our islands. This is very remarkable, for the sounder is simpler, more expeditious, and more accurate, than any other key system. Those who have been educated to regard a record as an element of accuracy can only be convinced by actual experience that it is an element of error, and this experience they will not seek. The argument they use against the adoption of the sounder, viz., its liability to error, is devoid of any foundation in fact.

TABLE V.

Comparative Return, showing the Number and Descriptions of Telegraph Instruments in the United Kingdom.

Year.	Automatic.	Sounders.	Printers.	Needles.	Bells.	A.B.C.'s.	Telephones.	Hughes.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
1877	164	1,294	1,692	3,680	210	4,572	—	—	129	11,741
1882	224	2,000	1,330	3,791	313	4,398	1,423	6	606	14,091
1886	384	3,181	1,368	4,003	388	3,883	4,057	14	1,108	18,386
1890	470	3,991	1,108	4,250	699	4,244	5,189	52	1,629	21,632
1895	510	4,652	885	4,867	885	4,801	7,480	66	3,343	27,489
1900	556	5,043	737	4,819	1,069	5,551	11,603	109	6,221	35,708

During the past twenty years, a complete revolution has been effected in the quality and manufacture of our instruments. Exact measurement and scientific principles have supplanted rough and ready methods. Complete specification and rigid inspection have replaced cheap and nasty competition. The workmanship of a good telegraph instrument is to be rivalled only by that of a chronometer. Technical training has converted the workshop into a scientific laboratory.

The rapid increase of business that resulted from the uniform shilling tariff soon led to the erection of more wires, and the

multiplication of wires soon attracted attention to methods of duplexing and quadruplexing the circuits. The duplex system means a mode of sending two messages in opposite directions at the same time. This was shown to be possible by Gintl, in Vienna, in 1853, but the necessity for such a system did not arise until 1872, and as at the moment a want is felt something is sure to turn up to supply this want, so when duplexing was needed Mr. Stearns arrived from America with a well worked out practical system, that was at once adopted, improved, and perfected. Still further congestion arising, quadruplex working, or the art of sending four messages on one wire at the same time, became desirable, and a practical quadruplex system, due to Mr. Edison, was imported in 1877 from the same inventive and practical region, the United States. The work of the Austrian Meyer ought also to be referred to. Later on, in 1885, a still further development was matured in America, viz., the multiplex system of Delany, by which six messages can be simultaneously sent on the same wire. The chief reason why these systems have been matured in America is that the want has been experienced there before it was felt here. Neither system was invented in America—each was invented in Europe. There are other wants that have been experienced here first, and those who have visited the States have found that English inventions are equally appreciated and adopted there. It is in automatic telegraphy that we have made the greatest advances. The following Table illustrates the progress made :—

		Words per minute.		Speed to Ireland.
1870	.....	80	.....	50·3
1875	.....	100	.....	70
1880	.....	200	.....	150
1885	.....	350	.....	250
1890	.....	450	.....	450

This increase has been due not only to improvement in the design of the apparatus, but to the steady examination of every defect and its removal, in the instrument, and on the line. It would require a paper of itself to narrate the ten years' conflict with electro-magnetic inertia, static induction, climatic influences, and battery defects. The table tells the result of this conflict, and the battle is not yet over; and the Diagram (page 357) shows how scientific methods and improved apparatus have checked the rate of growth of wires,

and have made cheap telegraphy possible. Experiments prove that even greater speed is practicable electrically. There are, however, operating difficulties connected with the control of the staff necessary to deal with such high rates of speed, and consequently in practice these speeds are not exceeded. There still exists in our system a potentiality of expansion. We are now attacking the conductors. Copper is replacing iron with very advantageous results, and aluminium is under consideration.

One consequence of the introduction of these advanced systems of working has been the necessity of educating the operating staff in the scientific and technical details of the business. The absence of technical knowledge in all branches has hitherto been a great difficulty to surmount. The technological examinations inaugurated by the Society of Arts, and continued by the City and Guilds of London Institute, have been most beneficial, but the most successful incentive has been the selection and promotion of those who have given their attention to their own scientific education. This evident necessity for technical knowledge is reacting on the higher Post Office officials, and one finds all over the country a healthful spirit of inquiry arising—a striving after something better than the mere perfunctory discharge of official duties. There is something so captivating in the development of the practical applications of electricity, that those who make a study of it, especially experimentally, find in it more real enjoyment than any puzzling over the vagaries of the modern poet, or poring over the meaning of ancient cynics can afford. A successful experiment is a distinct revelation—an admission into courts where, according to Bacon, are found “secrets not dangerous to know, sides and parties not factious to hold, precepts not penal to disobey.”

SNOWSTORMS.

We have been subject at intervals to heavy and destructive snowstorms, which have seriously damaged our overground wires. The wires constructed and maintained by the Post Office have not suffered very seriously, but those maintained along the railways, and those erected by the Telephone Company overhead, have been severely handled by the elements. No serious accident to person has been recorded, but the interruptions to communication have directed earnest attention to the necessity of putting more wires underground. It has always been the practice of the Post Office to do this in London and large cities, but not only the excessive cost,

but the diminished speed of working, has hitherto prevented its being done to any large extent in the country.

The new London to Birmingham underground line, completed during the last financial year, will be a factor of great importance to the Department in meeting storm troubles in the future. The line is $117\frac{1}{2}$ miles long, and consists of 76 wires. Each wire is of copper weighing 150 lbs. to the mile. The whole is made up into a cable with a substantial exterior sleeve of lead, and drawn into 3 inch cast-iron pipes. The extension of this line northward has been authorised.

In London alone we have 336 miles of pipes, containing 17,467 miles of wire. In fact all our great trunk lines are out of danger from stoppage from storms. We have 1,666 miles of open wire included within the metropolitan area, but these are chiefly in the suburbs, and include long outlying sections, used either for police or fire brigade purposes, or for private persons.

There are 227 offices in London now served wholly by underground wires. It will be seen, therefore, that the Post Office has been fully alive to the drawbacks attending the existence of over-head lines in crowded centres. It is steadily pursuing the same policy, and although some open wires must exist if telegraphs are to exist at all in certain localities, still the over-head proportion, as compared with the underground, steadily diminishes.

TABLE VI.

Comparative return, showing the mileage of Line and Wire in the United Kingdom

Year.	Overhead.		Underground.		Submarine.	
	Line.	Wire.	Line.	Wire.	Line.	Wire.
1877...	23,766	101,627	395	8,014	$1,111\frac{1}{2}$	$3,692\frac{1}{2}$
1882...	$25,001\frac{1}{2}$	$111,811\frac{1}{2}$	$478\frac{3}{4}$	$10,993\frac{1}{2}$	1,204	3,929
1886...	27,103	$145,770\frac{1}{4}$	$677\frac{1}{4}$	19,605	1,484	4,820
1890...	28,772	159,340	766	23,860	1,902	6,827
1895...	$33,038\frac{1}{2}$	185,036	871	27,267	2,126	$7,230\frac{1}{2}$
1900...	40,993	272,718	1,146	$47,027\frac{1}{2}$	2,517	8,591

To provide a scheme extending throughout the kingdom to only connect the more important towns, and uniting those towns by less than half the existing number of overhead wires, would cost something like £2,500,000, and in these days of attenuated exchequers such an outlay is very serious to incur, although it may effectually guard against stoppages ranging from three days to three weeks, once in five years or so.

PNEUMATIC TELEGRAPHS.

The Electric Telegraph Company introduced, in 1854, a pneumatic tube of lead protected in iron pipes, between their central station in Lothbury and the Stock Exchange, through which the messages themselves, in small leather carriers, were driven. The system proved so economical and rapid, that it was extended in the City of London, Glasgow, Liverpool, and in Manchester.

At the transfer there were altogether 2 miles 1,625 yards of pipes laid down, but now there are in :—

London ...	...	...	38 miles, 1,312 yards.	
Birmingham ...	...	...	1 „ 1,087 „	
Liverpool...	...	...	5 „ 1,593 „	
Newcastle ...	...	...	1 „ 278 „	
Glasgow ...	...	...	2 „ 756 „	
Dublin ...	...	...	1 „ 1,016 „	
Manchester ...	...	...	2 „ 1,442 „	
Cardiff ...	...	...	4 „ 1,099 „	
Bradford ...	...	...	612 „	
Grimsby ...	...	...	1,572 „	
Leeds ...	...	...	1,473 „	
Total ...				60 miles, 1,679 yards.

The longest tube is that between the central station, General Post Office, and the House of Commons (3,992 yards), through which 700 messages are sometimes sent daily, each carrier taking about six minutes per journey, but intermediate signallers being employed, carriers can be despatched every two minutes. In most cases there are two tubes, one for sending and the other for receiving—through one the messages are blown, through the other they are sucked—the engines

and pumps being in all cases in the central station. At the time of the transfer the engine power employed was as follows :—

	Engines.				h.-p.
London, Telegraph Street	I	...	...	...	20
Birmingham	I	...	...	...	6
Liverpool	I	...	...	...	8
Manchester	I	...	...	...	10
Glasgow	I	...	...	...	6
Total nominal horse-power...					50

The engine power employed at present is as follows :—

	nom. h.-p.			
London—4 condensing and 2 non-condensing engines	each	50		
Liverpool—2 non-condensing	„	40		
Manchester—2 non-condensing	„	10		
Birmingham—2 „	„	10		
Glasgow—2 „	„	25		
Newcastle—1 non-condensing	„	8		
Dublin—2 gas engines	„	16		
Grimsby—2 „	„	9		
Bradford—1 gas engine	„	6		
Leeds—2 electric motors	„	16		
Cardiff—2 „ „	„	30		
Total ...		626		

This gives a total of 24 engines, and a total of 626 nominal horse-power for working the 186 pneumatic tubes now in use.

TABLE VII.—SUBMARINE CABLES.

GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATIONS.	No. of Cables.	Length in nautical miles.
Argentine Republic	13	59'824
Austria	41	214'406
Bahamas	1	213'000
Brazil	36	58'965
Belgium	2	54'669
Canada	1	199'923
China	2	113'000
Cochin China and Tonquin	2	774'490
Denmark	73	235'176
Dutch Indies	7	890'794
France and Algeria	54	5,035'400
Germany	58	2,224'611
Great Britain and Ireland	197	2,156'333
Greece	46	54'931
Holland	24	61'982
India, Indo-European Telegraph Department, Government Administration	111	1,919'665
Italy	39	1,060'647
Japan	71	1,507'843
Macao	1	1'930
New Caledonia	1	1'000
New South Wales	4	31'577
New Zealand	4	208'428
Norway... ..	325	323'974
Portugal	4	115'050
Queensland	20	56'874
Russia in Europe and the Caucasus	8	160'915
Russia in Asia	1	70'017
Senegal... ..	1	3'000
South Australia	3	48'360
Spain	15	1,744'508
Sweden... ..	15	95'825
Switzerland	2	9'827
Turkey in Europe and Asia	23	344'288
Total... ..	1,205	20,051'232

SUBMARINE CABLES—*Continued.*

COMPANIES.	No. of Cables.	Length in nautical miles.
African Direct Telegraph Company	8	2,943'000
Amazon Telegraph Company... ..	15	1,326'000
Anglo-American Telegraph Company	14	9,507'660
Black Sea Telegraph Company	1	337'140
Canadian Pacific Railway Company	7	36'940
Central and South American Telegraph Company	15	7,500'500
Commercial Cable Company	9	11,679'670
Compagnie Francaise des Cables Tele- graphiques	32	12,102'423
Compania Telegraphica del Rio de la Plata ...	1	28'080
Compania Telegraphico-Telephonica del Plata	1	28'080
Cuba Submarine Telegraph Company	10	1,162'000
Deutsch Atlantische Telegraphen-Gesellschaft	2	4,141'790
Deutsche-See-Telegraphen-Gesellschaft ...	1	1,111'180
Direct Spanish Telegraph Company	4	710'258
Direct United States Cable Company	2	3,100'675
Direct West Indian Cable Company... ..	2	1,265'300
Eastern Telegraph Company	130	34,325'607
Eastern Extension, Australasia and China Telegraph Company	31	18,985'190
Eastern and South African Telegraph Company	14	9,066'071
Europe and Azores Telegraph Company	2	1,053'080
Great Northern Telegraph Company... ..	28	6,988'000
Halifax and Bermudas Cable Company ...	1	849'960
India Rubber, Gutta Percha, and Telegraph Works Company	2	137'678
Indo-European Telegraph Company... ..	3	21'500
Mexican Telegraph Company	3	1,529'000
River Plate Telegraph Company	3	138'000
South American Cable Company	2	2,065'224
Spanish National Submarine Telegraph Company	1	927'770
West African Telegraph Company	11	3,000'344
West Coast of America Telegraph Company .	7	1,973'820
West Indian and Panama Telegraph Company	24	4,639'000
Western Telegraph Company... ..	25	17,260'000
Western Union Telegraph Company... ..	8	7,351'000
Total	419	167,301'940

GENERAL SUMMARY.

	No. of Cables.	Length in nautical miles.
Government Administrations	1,205	20,051'232
Private Companies	419	167,301'940
Total... ..	1,624	187,353'172

CABLES.

The exclusion of private enterprise from telegraphic undertaking in these islands does not apply to our colonies and to the ocean. The growth of submarine telegraphy has been enormous. We read in our newspaper every morning the previous day's doings in every quarter of the world. In the *Times* of Monday, 16th September, 1901, for example, there were no less than nine columns of cabled matter referring to the diabolical outrage by which the United States of America lost its President, five from America and four from the Continent; three columns of war news cabled from South Africa, and items of news from every part of the globe.

In 1851, two or three far-seeing individuals risked their capital in laying a cable between Dover and Calais. Now there are nearly 200,000 nautical miles of submarine cable resting on the bottom of the ocean, which have absorbed a capital of approximately £50,000,000. Table VII. gives a list of them.

No less than ten cables cross the Atlantic. All our important colonies are in connection with London—the heart of the world. Laying and repairing has become a simple and a certain matter in any depth and in every sea. A whole fleet of ships—over thirty—are maintained for the purpose. Submarine telegraphy has become a solid property—the main result of British skill and British enterprise—unaided by Government support. The apparatus used is principally Sir William Thomson's (Lord Kelvin) recorder.

RAILWAYS.

The monopoly which the Postmaster-General possesses regarding telegraphy only applies to message-carrying for profit—it does not apply to those numerous wires that are required for the protection of

life on railways. Each of our large railway companies has a distinct telegraph system of its own, employing a very large staff, and used for the purpose of regulating its own traffic. There are about 80,000 miles of wire erected for the purpose, and probably 20,000 instruments in use of various kinds. The apparatus used for telegraphy is mostly the needle, though generally on the wires connecting the Post Offices sounders are employed. The apparatus used for block working is very various. Every great railway out of London has a different system. The survival of the fittest has not yet asserted itself. But they all work well, and without electric signalling the working of our railway system would be absolutely impossible.

FINANCE.

The financial position of the telegraph business is sound. The amount of capital debited against telegraphs is £10,140,000; of this, £7,000,000 was the purchase money, the rest has been expended in extensions and in furthering the business. If the trust which the Post Office undertook on behalf of the public were handed back to the care of private enterprise, we should hand over a going business drawing a gross revenue of nearly £3,500,000 per annum, and assets which may be estimated at £7,000,000. If financiers were willing to pay several millions for a single brewing business in Dublin, what would they pay for a grand Imperial monopoly, serving every town in the United Kingdom, and of which every person in these islands is a customer?

It is very much the fashion to decry the terms of purchase. Doubtless, the terms paid were very high, and the Post Office authorities who negotiated the purchase were unnecessarily hurried, and perhaps overmatched by the railway companies, for they had to pay twice over for certain privileges. Mr. Fawcett proposed to wipe out as wasted capital the excess paid for telegraphs, and call it a bad debt. As the bargain stands, the public have not been losers. A Government department cannot compete in economy with an ordinary commercial firm subject to competition; nevertheless, the business done pays a dividend on the capital expended.

It is amusing, after this length of time, to read the arguments that were adduced against the absorption of the telegraphs by the State. Every reason has been proved wrong, every prophecy has remained unfulfilled. I can say this with a good grace, for I was one of the prophets.

The advantages of a State-controlled telegraph system have been amply shown. There has been established a cheaper, more widely extended, and more expeditious system of telegraphy ; the wires have been erected in districts that private companies could not reach ; the cost of telegrams has been reduced, not only in their transmission but in their delivery ; the number of offices opened has been quadrupled ; a provincial and an evening press has been virtually created. Adam Smith said that the Post Office was the only kind of business that Government had always managed with success. We can now add Telegraphy.

W. H. PREECE.

Sea and Moor.

I FIND no charm to cure the mind's unease
By lingering where the restless ocean laves
The tide-tormented shore, and, fawning, craves
With hungry maw that nought can e'er appease.
The sleepless, ruthless, fretful, moaning seas ;
League upon league of endless tumbling waves ;
These know not peace—save in their deep-sunk graves,
Where hapless sailors wait the last decrees.

But on the tranquil moorland's smiling crest,
Where golden gorse and purple heather yield
Their fragrant tribute to the wooing breeze,
Dear Mother Earth, upon her warm soft breast,
Soothes my sick soul—whose hurt she oft hath healed—
Crooning a lullaby in the hum of bees.

T. T.

Post Office Types

(Continued).

Types high and low ; with a Preface which, after the manner of the later decadents, has little to do with the subject.

PREFACE.

I AM told by those "who know, or who ought to know," that no man has any claim to competence as a Civil Servant who cannot, with the greatest ease and at a moment's notice, cover two pages of blue foolscap with excellent reasons for *not* doing a thing. That being so, it should be a simple matter for me to explain—I resist the temptation of writing "to at once explain." But explanations are, as a gifted journalist has it, "the curse of an ink-slinging generation." So I will not explain, but just yarn, if I may, for a moment—toes on fender, cigarette in mouth. We will stop a minute, while the waiter brings *it* in, or rather *them* in (by your leave), in long tumblers. There—thank you!

* * * * *

It was all the fault of that Irishman from Cork, George Lynch. And George *is a white man*. At least, one who knew men when he saw them so described him. It was in 1897, or thereabouts, that Harold Frederic, after the send-off dinner given by him to the then Sir Alfred Milner, brought Lynch and myself together. The introduction was simple, and, as usual with Frederic, not spoiled by an excess of fulsome flattery. "George, here's that ass Jack Stokes."—"Jack, here's a fellow from Cork. Calls himself a Christian. Sort of Wandering Jew of Journalism." Then, tapping Lynch on the shoulder, "But, my boy, he's a *white man*."

* * * * *

That is how I first met George Lynch, whose fault it is that my first batch of "Post Office Types" for this number has "gone bom," to use little Dorothy's beloved unofficial tongue, which I understand so much better than any other language I have ever tried to learn. And little Dorothy loves the gentle clear-eyed Irishman, as do all children and dogs. It is difficult to believe that this is only some forty-eight months ago, so much has happened since then ; so much has been seen and suffered. Not by me, alas, not by me ! But Lynch has been round the world and more. He was with young

Stephen Crane in the Cuban war, and did some mighty plucky work at the taking of Santiago. He saw many dangers face to face, and fever was not the least of them. Yet that wicked Cuban fever, of which the after consequences caused the death of the brilliant author of the *Red Badge of Courage*, spared the Irishman from Cork. Home George came, to find Harold Frederic sinking, and to make a desperate attempt to save the author of *Illumination* from himself and — you all know the rest. Yet there are some things not even an Irishman can do, though these are few in number. Harold went under, and George and I saw the end in the furnace house at Woking.

* * * * *

Then came the alarums and excursions in South Africa, when the Milner in whom, from his journalist days, Harold Frederic believed as the whitest man of all, gave the world a taste of his quality. Lynch was off like a shot to the Cape and was soon in the thick of it. He and his khaki-stained horse "Kruger" were at Elandslaagte, and there, as in other fights, he did good service as a man and a journalist. Shut up in Ladysmith during the early part of the siege, he shared the same room with G. W. Steevens, of whom George speaks as one of the bravest men he ever met. Once, and once only, did Lynch see a scared look on Steevens' face. The pressmen were grouped outside the house or under the veranda for an after-luncheon pipe. Steevens had forgotten his cigarette case and rushed into the house up to their first-floor room to get it. As he disappeared under the portico the signal was given from a neighbouring station that a Long Tom had been fired from Pepworth Hill. The seconds passed one, two, three—to the nth; the text books will tell you the exact value of n. Lynch thought of photographing the shell as it came on, but there was a "direct hit" look about it which suggested the propriety of lying down. The usual crash, bang, splutter, and dust—the shell had burst in the very room where Steevens was. An intense pause; then the cruelly slow clearing of the dust. And as it cleared, the white scared face of the brilliant young journalist was seen at the window. Then the face vanished for a moment—and he reappeared. Steevens was holding in his hand the cause of his dismay. It was his last box of cigarettes. A fragment of shell or wood had smashed his big ink bottle, deluging with blue-black fluid the last fifty cigarettes.

Steevens, as all know, never left the besieged town alive. How Lynch and the horse Kruger, with a file of the Ladysmith Lyre (of

which George was part Editor) tried to get through to Buller and failed: how he was sentenced to death and taken to Pretoria, then released and sent off to Delagoa Bay: all this is common property. Two little yarnicles are not so well known, and perhaps I may be allowed to tell them. Lynch nearly got through from Ladysmith—another mile would have done it. He had put twelve miles between himself and the besieged town, and was struggling in the half-light with some form of barbed-wire entanglement when, a dozen or so yards off, he saw the muzzle of a gun. His Irish wit saved him. "Put it down, man," said George, with enough emotion to bring out the brogue, "put it down, my boy, it might go off." A laugh from behind the bushes, and the muzzle dropped. But Lynch was a prisoner.

The other yarn is simple enough. A few nights after his capture George was lying on a blanket in the Boer laager guarded by a fine young Dutchman, silent, phlegmatic, ponderously slow of speech. The Boer leaned on his rifle, looking at the condemned man from Cork. A long silence. Then, very slowly: "Say, Baas, they're going to shoot *you*." George bet him a bottle of whisky they wouldn't. A long silence. Then again, very earnestly: "Say, Baas, you bet me a bottle of whisky they won't shoot you." Lynch nodded. A silence, longer than before; the young Boer gazing very earnestly at his prisoner. Then at last, very, very slowly: "Say, Baas, if *you* lose, how will you pay?"

Ladysmith, Pretoria, Lorenzo Marquez, Durban and a fever hospital. A fight for life, in which Lynch won. Then home for a short visit, and a sudden rush to Shanghai. How he was able to join the Relief expedition and entered Pekin through the gates, which he saw blown up by the Japanese: what he saw in China and the innermost parts of the Emperor's palace, and learned in and from China—all this is told in George Lynch's book now going through the Press—*The War of the Civilizations, being the record of a "Foreign Devils" experiences with the Allies in China*. Longman brings it out in a few days.

* * * * *

Now, you may well ask, what in the name of goodness has this to do with you? Quite so. Lynch, though he owes allegiance to Leo XIII., was not called "The Wandering Jew of Journalism" for nothing. He had been in London for some weeks, perhaps months; seemed settled for a bit. Suddenly, at the bidding of two London papers, he took passage in the "Lucania," on the 7th September,

for New York, bound to Sir Thomas and the "Erin." And, as he started, he left me his blessing and a dozen little jobs of sorts to do. These interesting relics have held me prisoner every evening since my Irishman sailed, and knocked on the head those noble intentions of which my other kind friend, Edward Bennett, was the object. But, if "our good friends in front," as they say on the stage, will only have patience with me, Lynch's remains will hardly last for ever; and I trust in January to be allowed to present a special Christmas *menu*, of which the following is a rough foreshadowing. The dishes are, of course, as yet uncooked. "The Foreign Applicant.—The Private Secretary.—The Man who takes himself Seriously.—The Refreshment Club, from below the Salt.—The Zealous Officer.—The Wreath." So Lynch, for the October number, cornered me, so far as my job goes. Not quite altogether, for two or three scraps, as will be seen, survive.

* * * * *

As I write, on the 15th September, it looks as if my friend the War Correspondent's sporting mission to the United States would be overshadowed, certainly for a time, by the great tragedy of Buffalo. There are no big words needed here, for the inflated words of little men do not add to the pathos of a great national sorrow. Yet not only as one of the rank and file of the Post Office, but also as one who in his time had very dear American friends, and worked for a period on the press of that great country, I would like to say quite simply how earnestly and deeply we grieve over the McKinley tragedy here. All around me in the Post Office, when the death-news came, there was honest unaffected sorrow. I would that the people of the United States could see for themselves and really believe how, apart from the solemn official notes of sympathy which ring true enough, there is no modest little home in England to-day in which that sympathy is not honestly felt—no postman or postwoman who does not join in the grief across the sea.

POST OFFICE TYPES.

V.—THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

The fear of *Majestäts-beleidigung* is on me as I write. And yet the P.M.G. is of all Post Office types the most fascinating. I have known men stand with their backs against the old Christ's Hospital boundary at the King Edward Street end, staring at the heavy red curtains and grape-bunch of electric lights seen through the big window over the way, and wondering what HE was doing. . . .

* * * * *

Hiatus valde defendendus, as we used to say at Edgbaston. The fact is that, like the bunch of electric lights aforesaid, this subject of the highest of all Post Office types is too much for one man. It could only be faced by a committee. But how?

I have it. In old schooldays, days so old that the sense of pain has almost passed from him, the present writer was—for crimes duly committed, detected, and repented—flogged on the same day and by the same strong hand as the late Postmaster-General. Ah me, this was all *sub rege Neandro*; but though the brain that ordered the execution was that of Newman, the wrist, arm and muscle were not Oriel-bred, but hailed from Winchester and New College. And they know all that there is to be known about this almost lost art of the birch at Winchester. Be that as it may, it is certain that the then Head Master of Edgbaston “took up the matter sharply with the officers in fault”; and further, that of the two sufferers on that striking occasion one was he that tells the tale, and the other (to use his most up-to-date title) was His Worship the present Mayor of Westminster. That being so, it would seem that here we have the elements of a committee. The birch, if it does not level all men, at least links duke to drudge for some few [happily] fleeting seconds in the brotherhood of the mystery of pain. I would suggest then that those of my colleagues who have been deservedly “tanned” (as we used to call it) on or about the same day as any P.M.G., past or present, should communicate with me through the usual Editorial channels. We can then form a modest little committee to consider our Chief from the point of view of a Post Office type.

Yet I foresee, apart from the question of *lèse-majesté*, a difficulty in forming this committee. I said “deservedly tanned.” The difficulty arises from the fact that no Post Office servant I’ve ever known (except the Duke, Heaven bless him, and *he* wasn’t a servant) can ever be got to admit that he was or is deservedly punished. Not he. It is always, if you believe my colleagues, the fault of the other fellows or the favouritism, positive or negative, of the Higher Powers.

VI.—THE UNDERPAID.

For the present there is little to be said on this matter. So far as I have been able to judge, by all-but-direct enquiries on a most delicate subject, about 99 per cent. of the gentlemen of the Civil Service consider themselves to be underpaid. In the Post Office this estimate varies slightly. For instance, in one of the rooms in

which I work the proportion of the underpaid is, on their own showing, only 75 per cent.

VII.—THE OVERPAID.

Here again I find myself in difficulties. None of these fellows (charming fellows, too) will own to it; but I am pained to find that they are all agreed to place me high up in this class, mainly on account of my ignorance of English grammar and punctuation. Very well. *J'y suis et j'y reste*. (I can write French, you see, when I pick my way carefully among words without accents.) But this isn't a class of one only, like an unsuccessful dame's school. There is, or *was*, Brookes. And Brookes certainly was overpaid. I can't remember his real name, but he was not cheap at the money—whatever that money was—anyway. We called him Brookes in those days, after a maker of historic soap, because he wouldn't wash clothes . . . or anything else. But his buttons shone like the cheap watches in the American shop in Cheapside. He had a little cell of a room on the third floor, which he shared with a lanky boy who had a grievance and was also in buttons. He bossed that boy severely. When you rang for Brookes, nothing happened. You rang again. Still no movement on the official stage. Then, more in anger than in sorrow, you invaded Brookes's den only to find that excellent official coatless and the lanky boy burnishing his master's buttons. Yes, certainly, Brookes *was* overpaid. I believe he keeps a public now, and behind his own bar wears his coat less than ever. But the lanky boy has vanished into the *Ewigkeit*. Scoffers say he took Orders.

VIII.—THE INDIAN MAIL OFFICER.


I don't often dine at the Rag—*ce n'est pas de mon petit monde*. But it happened, somehow. And there it was that a friendly Colonel, who had rattled between Calais and Brindisi more times than he could tally, alluding to the fact that some of the Indian Mail Officers have been army men, said of them what seemed to me a very true and charming thing: "*Some of them* have been officers, and *all* are gentlemen."

S.O.

J. SCOTT STOKES.

(*To be continued.*)

The Post Office and the Volunteer Movement—IV.

 HE progress of the Volunteer movement in the Post Office is an interesting page in the history of the Department, and as much of this success is due to the energy and *esprit de corps* of the officials of the minor establishment, it is worthy of notice that the letter carriers of the old London Penny Post (nothing, of course, to do with Rowland Hill!) were among the first to volunteer to assist the Government at the time the country was scared at the possibility of an invasion by Napoleon. Since commencing this article the writer has seen letters written by Mr. Edward Johnson, Deputy Controller of the old Penny Post Office. They are important as being perhaps the first official record of the connection of a Post Office with the Volunteer movement. Johnson was originally a letter carrier, but soon gave proof of more than ordinary ability, and in 1793 he brought about great improvements in the Penny Post. The following year he became Deputy Comptroller, and two years later he addressed a letter to the Joint Secretary, Mr. F. Freeling:—

“ Penny Post Office,
October 25, 1796.

Dear Sir,

Some of the Principal Clerks of this Office, on behalf of themselves and the other clerks, as also of all the Town Letter Carriers, amounting together to above 180 in number, having signified to me that they are willing to form a military association in the manner of other institutions of that kind, if government will accept their services, and having expressed a wish that their sentiments may, if the measure is practicable, be communicated to the Postmaster General, shall I therefore trouble you on this occasion, and beg you to favour me with your sentiments thereon.

I am, Dear Sir,
Yours truly, &c.

(Signed) E. JOHNSON.”

F. Freeling, Esq., &c.”

This letter was favourably received, and the Secretary replied : " Nothing can be more proper—and if their service is necessary the P.M.G. will take the usual methods for their being trained and exercised." Minute 349/1796.

In 1798 Mr. Johnson was elected a Captain of the Royal Westminster Volunteers. He addressed another letter to the Postmaster General:—

" Penny Post Office,
April 4, 1798.

My Lord,

In compliance with an application from a Committee of the Corps of Royal Westminster Volunteers, of which I have some time been a member, and considering the object as intended for the service and benefit of the public, and that no inconvenience to this office can arise from it, I have humbly to request your Lordship's permission for the enclosed address to be circulated, free of postage, by the Penny Post Letter Carriers throughout the City and Liberty of Westminster and the adjoining Parishes.

I have the honour to be, my Lord,

Your Lordship's most Obedient, Humble Servant,

(Signed) E. JOHNSON,

The Right Hon.

Deputy Comptroller."

His Majesty's Postmaster General."

The Postmaster General gave the necessary permission on condition that Johnson's name appeared on the printed circulars.

The circular, after setting forth the conditions of service, colour of uniform, &c., concluded with this address, which, although somewhat hysterical, is interesting in indicating the spirit of the times—

GENTLEMEN, AND FELLOW-SUBJECTS,

Armies recruited in Thousands by Requisitions and Force—augmented by the Profligate, and lured by the hope of Plunder, threaten us with invasion, and forcibly point out to us the urgency of Union, Vigour, and hearty Co-operation.

SELF-PRESERVATION is now the SOLE Consideration: WE MUST UNITE. The justice and necessity of the War in its origin, are at present out of the question. " Delenda est Carthago " is the language our Enemies insultingly apply to us, and they vauntingly reckon on our Subjugation.

BRITONS, be BRITONS still—Let Party Differences be laid aside — Let the Public Weal, the maintenance of Public Tranquility, and the Security of Individual Property, be our only Concern ; and let every Hand and every Heart be exerted for the Defence of our Country.

On You, then, who prefer the blessings of a mild and regular Government, to the Anarchy and Confusion, the Proscriptions and Massacres, attendant on Revolutions :

On You, who know it is for the Interest of *All*, as much of the Poor as of the Rich, that Industry, Property, and Virtue should be protected :

On You, Gentlemen, in short, who are actuated by a sense of Duty, or the love of Order ;—by Attachment to your Friends ;—by Affection for your Families ; or by whatever is near and dear to every honest heart, on You we call—and You we invite to join us in Arms.

COUNTRYMEN,

The present is an awful, a momentous Crisis ! The circumstances of the times demand EXTRAORDINARY EXERTIONS :— Prove therefore your Attachment to your KING and to your COUNTRY, and immediately enroll yourselves with

THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER VOLUNTEERS.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

* * * *

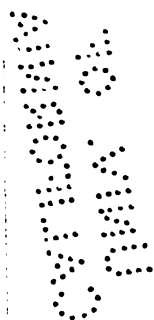
So far this article has dealt almost exclusively with the doings of Post Office Volunteers within the Metropolitan area. In attempting to give a brief notice of some Provincial and Scottish Post Office Volunteers, the writer is handicapped by the difficulty in getting in touch with those entitled to be mentioned. Naturally most men are modest of their achievements. If, therefore, many names are omitted the writer's ignorance must be the excuse.

In no part of the Provinces is the office better represented by its military members, perhaps, than Liverpool. The Surveyor and Postmaster, Mr. F. Salisbury, is an old volunteer, and his sons have evinced equal military ardour. Lance-Corporal C. Kingsley Salisbury, an acting member of his father's staff at Liverpool, belonged to the 2nd Volunteer Battalion of the Liverpool Regiment. His portrait represents him in the uniform of the 77th Company (Manchester) of the Imperial Yeomanry. He has since been accepted for Baden



REPRESENTATIVES OF DIFFERENT VOLUNTEER BATTALIONS, EMPLOYED IN THE TELEGRAPH OFFICE, LIVERPOOL.

[To face page 380.]



Powell's South African Constabulary. Mr. Salisbury's eldest son is a Corporal of the C (Liverpool University) Company of the 1st



LANCE-CORPORAL SALISBURY.

Cheshire Engineers—a regiment that has sent two detachments for service in South Africa. He is one of the keenest members in the Medical Section of the Company.

One of the oldest and smartest volunteers in Liverpool is Colour-Sergeant T. Gates, Inspector of Messengers and a member of the 1st V.B. of the King's Liverpool Regiment (originally designated the 1st Lancashire Rifle Volunteers). He joined the 15th Lancashire Rifle Volunteers as far back as 1878. In his present corps he became a sergeant at the early age of 20, and as the most youthful sergeant in the corps he earned the mess sobriquet of "The Kid." To-day, in a corps of 1,300 members, his proficiency certificate is the second oldest and dates back to 1883. Colour-Sergeant Gates has been ubiquitous so far as the volunteers are concerned. Whether as camp instructor, mess caterer, organiser of corps entertainments, or a leader in Kriegspiel (popularly known as the War Game), he has been complimented for work well performed; and not the least interesting reminder of his excellent services are the numerous

testimonials with which he has been presented from time to time. He has trained many bayonet and other teams for public displays. When appointed Assistant Inspector of Messengers in 1881 he instituted, by direction of the Inspector (Mr. J. Rickus, now Postmaster of Bury), drill for the messengers at the Head Office and Exchange B.O. When Sir Arthur Blackwood, then Secretary to the Post Office, was passing through Liverpool, the boys received him with military honours, and he complimented them on their smartness and precision. Subsequently Sir Spencer Walpole was paid a similar compliment when visiting Liverpool, and also expressed his pleasure and surprise at the boys' excellent movements. The efficient work of the Liverpool Messenger Corps is largely due to the zeal of Colour-Sergeant Gates. His photograph was taken by his comrade, Staff-Sergeant W. Simpson Cook, who is a valued member of the 1st Lancashire Royal Engineers.

The photo group of representatives of different volunteer battalions employed in the Liverpool Telegraph Office, given at page 380, includes three members on service in South Africa.

Mr. John Philips, Postmaster and Surveyor of Manchester, was a volunteer thirty-three years ago. He was one of the first officers to receive a commission in the old 49th Middlesex Rifle Volunteers. Like Liverpool, many members of his staff are distinguished and



COLOUR-SERGEANT T. GATES.

enthusiastic volunteers. Staff-Sergeant Done, of the Circulation Branch, has obtained the highest honours in the most scientific branch of the army forces—the Artillery. He joined the Manchester Artillery (7th Lancashire Artillery Volunteers) in 1880 as a driver,

and at once distinguished himself in carbine shooting, being selected to represent his regiment against other corps at all other large towns in this country. He proved a most successful shot, and besides numerous trophies of all descriptions his money prizes up to 1891



STAFF-SERGEANT DONE (AMBULANCE DRESS), S. AFRICA.

had run into three figures. Twice he tied for the championship for the best shot in the brigade, and in 1891—1893 he succeeded in winning the coveted badge.

In 1899 he became bombardier, a year later corporal, and the following year sergeant. In 1894, his regiment having lost its rifle range, Sergeant Done turned his attention to gunnery, in which he was even more successful. After winning several badges for gun laying and skill-at-arms, he at the next competition at Southport thrice tied with Battery-Sergeant-Major Williams (a noted shot) at a range of 1,200 yards with 20-pounder R.B.L. gun, both scoring bulls. In the following year, however, he beat Sergeant-Major Williams, and came out first in the competition. In the next important contest, which was held at Manchester, and was open to all artillery corps in Lancashire, Sergeant Done won Colonel Sowler's cup (a big prize) and a cup given by the officers of the 12th Lancers. Later he won the first prize for gun drill (1896), and several firsts for ambulance drill and ambulance work. Ten times he was on the winning detachment for repository exercise, and won the silver cup (given by Major Magnus, V.D.) for horsemanship. The battery to which Sergeant Done belongs has for many years held the challenge cups for best battery, best section, and best sub-division.

His commanding officer has several times offered him the rank of battery-sergeant-major, which he is unfortunately unable to accept owing to his official duties preventing him from giving the time which such a position would demand. Sergeant Done also commanded a tug of war team from his regiment which for six years remained unbeaten.

When the South African War broke out he volunteered for the artillery, but their guns being obsolete his services were not accepted. He thereupon volunteered with the St. John's Ambulance Brigade, and was sent out as first class staff-sergeant attached to the R.A.M.C. Whilst in South Africa he was acting sergeant-major in Pine Town, Natal, and on his return to England with that rank was, under Major Cummins, R.A.M.C., in charge of over 500 invalids. He is shortly to be presented with the volunteer long service medal by Colonel Birley, V.D., the officer commanding his regiment.

Sergeant Kenyon, of the Money Order Branch, Manchester, joined the 3rd V.B. Lancashire Fusiliers in 1885. He was very successful in shooting, although he did not win any great prizes, and after the usual steps in promotion he became sergeant in 1896. He is held in high esteem by his officers and comrades, and at every camp (which, by the way, he has not missed for fifteen years) he has charge of the postal arrangements for the brigade.



SERGEANT KENYON.

Characteristic of Sergeant Kenyon was his clever capture of a postal order thief at Manchester last month (September), when at the subsequent Police Court proceedings he was very highly commended by the magistrates for his smartness.

Mr. T. Parker, of the General Correspondence Branch, Manchester, was for many years a prominent member of the Broughton Troop of the Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry Cavalry, a corps which General French characterised as one of the finest regiments



TROOPER T. PARKER.

of yeomanry in the country. Mr. Parker's excellent swordsmanship soon won him distinction, and each year of his service he has been chosen to represent his troop at all regimental competitions. As a mounted (bareback) wrestler he was only second to Trooper Holroyd (an old and noted wrestler in the north), and even then it was customary for him to lose several vests before parting with his horse to so doughty an opponent. As a shot he was a clever marksman, and early in his career he won the cross flags for army signalling. He was also selected as one of the bodyguard to the late Queen on the occasion of her last visit to Manchester.

Mr. Francis, of the Registered Letter Branch, Manchester, is a very active member of the 3rd V.B. Lancashire Fusiliers, and some two years ago conceived the idea of raising a company from the staff of the Manchester Post Office. After many months labour he was able to muster a company of 70 men from among the various branches of the office. The company was attached to the 2nd V.B. Manchester Regiment, and thanks to his careful foresight, special drilling facilities were arranged by Colonel Bridgford, C.B., V.D., the commanding officer, for those members whose split duties in the Circulation Branch prevented them from attending the ordinary evening drill.

After some twelve months hard work, and having seen the

company firmly established, Mr. Francis severed his connection with it consequent on pressure of other work, and the interests of the company have since been looked after in a very able manner by Mr. Gerrard, of the Special Duty Branch. His services were recognised by his promotion to lance-sergeant in July last.

The company is represented in South Africa by 15 men who went out with the Army Post Office Corps and others with the Imperial Yeomanry.

Mr. Freeman, of the General Correspondence Branch (a member of the 4th V.B. Manchester Regiment), and Mr. Dickinson, Circulation Branch (a member of the 2nd V.B. Manchester Regiment), had the honour of being included in a company of 20 men selected from their battalions for service in South Africa. They were in the volunteer company which two years ago went out to strengthen the fighting line of the Manchester Regiment, and each went through the trials and hardships of General Buller's campaign. Unfortunately they were stricken down with fever several times, and were invalided home a few months ago.

At the siege of Ladysmith, Sergeant Freeman had the pleasure of meeting his brother, an officer in the King's Royal Rifles, who had been in Ladysmith since the commencement of the campaign.

Before concluding this reference to Manchester, mention should be made of Mr. R. C. Mulock Marcham, of the Missing Letter Section,



LANCE-SERGEANT GERRARD.

who, as a late member of the cyclist signallers and field telegraphists of the 2nd V.B. of the Manchester Regiment, won several prizes in army races and obtained a medal for army signalling.

The finest shot in the Postal Service is Mr. D. Reid, Telegraph Engineer, at present stationed at Leicester. As a first class shot and winner of the Queen's Prize his name is well known at all the principal meetings in England and Scotland. His volunteer service



SERGEANT FREEMAN.



CORPORAL DICKINSON.

commenced in 1885, when he joined the Lanark Engineers, but did very little shooting during that and the following year. In fact, Private Reid's initial efforts were most discouraging, as he seldom hit the target and invariably left the range with a sore shoulder and a swollen cheek, thanks to the recoil of the old Martini-Henry.

In 1887 he was promoted corporal and showed sufficient improvement with the rifle to be included in the regimental prize lists. After being appointed sergeant in 1888 he went in for hard and regular work at the range. Even when snow was on the ground and shooting, of course, very cold work, Sergeant Reid stuck to his practice, and this no doubt explains the marvellous success which ultimately came to him. In open competition at Wimbledon, when he made his first appearance in 1888, he secured four prizes out of the five competitions for which he entered, one of them being in the "Queen's." In 1889 he again commenced early practice, using over 1,000 rounds of ammunition alone for this purpose. In open competition in April he was second to Captain Grier, one of the best shots in Scotland. Thus encouraged, he attended the Scottish rifle meeting and won the Scottish Twenty Club championship, and on going to Wimbledon the same year he secured the most coveted of all shooting honours—the Queen's Prize. The occasion was all the more noteworthy since it was the last time the competition was held

there prior to its removal to Bisley. During this memorable (for him) year he won 29 prizes out of 30 competitions in which he took part. In 1890 Sergeant Reid was even in better form than the previous year, although not quite so lucky. Through putting a bull's-eye on the wrong target at 600 yards in the "Queen's" first stage he just lost the silver and bronze medal by 3 points. He, however, finished eighth in the final stage, and by way of consolation won the 50-guineas Wimbledon cup and finished third for the Caledonian shield at Edinburgh.

During the following ten years Sergeant Reid has been seven times in the final stage of the "Queen's," making nine times in all—a number which has only been exceeded by Parry of Cheshire, who has won ten Queen's badges in 15 years. Other successes during this period include the winning of the Scottish Twenty Club championship a second time, the club grand aggregate at Bisley, the Caledonian shield of £50 at Edinburgh (this prize is now reduced to £25), the championship Scottish meeting (1st stage), the Association cup at Bisley (tied), the grand aggregate Scottish Rifle Association, and the ladies' cup of the same association. In addition to this splendid list he has won many



SERGEANT D. REID (QUEEN'S PRIZE WINNER).

prizes for field firing at "running man" target, volley firing, and revolver shooting. He is still a member of his old corps, but has recently "reverted" to the position of private, putting in his drills at Leicester and completing his class firing when on annual leave.

Much of Sergeant Reid's success was due to the influence of the Glasgow Telegraph Shooting Club, an institution which was splendidly supported by the principal officers in the Glasgow office, and it is of interest to mention that Mr. Reid's first prize—a Stilton cheese—was obtained from the office club. The healthy rivalry which existed, and the active interest evinced by the Glasgow office generally, resulted in the club producing a team of ten men which held its own in most competitions. In an important local match in 1891, the telegraphists won by 48 points, average 91.3, with the Martini-Henry rifle. So excellent was the shooting for the club trophy (three shoots Queen's first stage conditions) that it was often necessary to obtain an aggregate of 95 points! Great rivalry existed between Glasgow and Edinburgh as regards shooting. The principal event of the year was the annual match between teams of ten men representing the telegraph shooting clubs of the two offices. The staff of both offices presented a handsome shield. The Glasgow team was usually the stronger owing to the larger membership, but the contests were generally close and keen, often resulting in a struggle between the last "pair" to determine the resting place of the shield for the ensuing twelve months. These friendly meetings were enthusiastically supported by leading members of the staff, who attended at the ranges and afterwards joined in a "social," where the musical and other talent of the offices completed an enjoyable outing. Colour-Sergeant R. Brown, of the 1st Lanark R.V. and attached to the Glasgow telegraph staff, rendered invaluable service as secretary of the shooting club for upwards of fifteen years. He also was a splendid shot and has just retired after receiving the long service medal. Whilst referring to the Lanarks it may be mentioned that Mr. R. Kerswill, of the Glasgow office, went out to South Africa as a yeoman with the Lanarks and took part in many engagements. He was with Colonel Le Gallais when that officer was shot.

The ranks of the auxiliary postmen include a prominent volunteer in the person of Colour-Sergeant Moyer, employed at Eastleigh. Prior to joining the volunteer force he served twenty-one years in the Royal Marine Light Infantry, from which he was discharged as sergeant in 1894. Much of his foreign service was connected with H.M.S. "Shah" on the Pacific Station and South Africa. Sergeant Moyer was present when the "Shah" engaged the Peruvian ironclad "Hausear," and accompanied the "Shah's" naval brigade during the Zulu war. He took part in all the principal engagements of that

campaign, and received the medal and clasp, 1879. He is now a member of the 2nd V.B. Hants Regiment, which he joined seven years ago. He is a distinguished shot, and has won many prizes. Last year he won the English Twenty Club country jewel for No. 2 Division, which comprises Hants, Wilts, Sussex and Kent. In addition to securing the principal challenge cups connected with his battalion, he has been successful in several competitions at Wimbledon and Bisley, and has been included at least once in the Queen's 300. The age limit deterred him from accompanying the Volunteer Service Company to South Africa.

Other keen provincial volunteers include Mr. E. Ashton, late superintending engineer, Liverpool; Mr. Pitt Bontein, late postmaster of Gloucester; Mr. E. S. Adams, late of Leamington Spa; and many others. Returning again to metropolitan volunteers, it is of interest to recall that Sir F. M. Hodgson, the late Governor of the Gold Coast, was a member of the Post Office Rifles. Captain Hodgson resigned in 1882 on his appointment as Postmaster-General of British Guiana.

Post Office officials, too, were well represented in the old Naval Volunteers. Three representatives of the Accountant-General's Department—the brothers Wickins and A. Hewitt—held responsible positions and did much good work until the force was disbanded.

Most of the important postal centres of the United Kingdom have had representatives engaged in the South African war, but a brief recital of their military experiences would be unfair, and scarcely comes within the scope of this article. There is abundant material to fill an interesting volume, and no doubt such a history will be written when the campaign is concluded.

It only remains to add that volunteering in the Post Office has been regarded as a serious profession, and in this incomplete record the writer has endeavoured to show that Post Office officials of all ranks have played a great part in helping the movement to secure a system of reserves for home defence. The possibility of any necessity for conscription in this country has seemed quite remote until the present war. If, however, the volunteers cannot suffice and a form of compulsory service should become an accomplished fact, Post Office officials cannot reproach themselves; they have done their best, since they were among the first to devote themselves to the intricacies of drill and straight shooting and to become efficient to guard our shores against foreign irruption.

A.G.D., G.P.O.

ERNEST A. MAY.

A Wander through the Post Office Museum of Berlin.



F necessity Berlin is a very modern city. It is only for the last thirty years that it has been one of the leading capitals of Europe, and in the lifetime of the seats of administration a human generation is of small account.

With very few exceptions all the great and fine buildings of the capital city of the German Empire are new and almost smack of the builder. The youth of Berlin being therefore taken into consideration, many beautiful buildings are not to be expected. Of the comparatively few, however, one at least is devoted to the postal service, and that one is the 'Postmuseum,' situated at the corner of the Mauerstrasse and the Leipzigerstrasse—the Bond Street of Berlin—and adjoining the new home of the headquarters of the German Postal Administration.

In accordance with almost universal precedent, the splendid collection of objects of interest to all concerned with the postal and telegraph services of the world, grew from small beginnings. There were several sources of the collection. The exhibit of the Imperial Postal Administration at the Universal Exhibition at Vienna in 1874 was one. A desire to afford the officers of the German Postal and Telegraph Service means of instruction in the history of their own department and of those of foreign administrations was another. The particularly fine collection of postal curiosities acquired during a long and honourable career by State Secretary von Stephan was a third.

Of this administrator, who may be considered the prophet and high priest of the German Postal Service as well as of the Universal Postal Union, the institution under review is of the nature of a personal memorial. Immediately upon entering into the central hall of the the building, the first object that meets the eye is his statue, occupying a prominent position, with no associates to divide the attention. The Museum is circular in form, and consists of galleries rising tier above tier that surround the hall in question.

The collection is representative of communications of almost every stage of the world's existence. Objects of use in the service in Assyria, Egypt, Ancient Greece, Rome, and by the early North German tribes are to be met with. The sections devoted to the Middle Ages, the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries

also contain many treasures, but it is the last century that has supplied the Museum with the largest number of objects of interest. The exhibits in this section are not representative of Germany alone. All parts of the world have been called upon to assist in making the Post Office Museum as complete as possible. Not only have the states of Europe sent their quota to the exhibition, but less accessible countries have also been laid under contribution. Arabia, Persia, Afghanistan, Siam, China, Corea, and Patagonia have all divisions devoted to their services.

To telegraphy and telephony in their many branches ten divisions are appropriated. Another is entirely taken up by exhibits relating to the Rohr post or system of pneumatic tubes. Then there are the sections reserved for the library of works relating to matters of postal and telegraphic interest; and the autographs, which include the signatures of almost all the men, including the representatives at the Postal Conferences, who have attained official fame in their various services during the latter half of the last century. Collections of postal regulations of various dates, of maps, portraits, and medals, are here; and finally a collection of postage stamps that inevitably arouses in the mind of every true philatelist a desire to transgress the Eighth Commandment and to acquire for himself treasures of which he had hitherto only dared to dream.

Within the limits of an article of these dimensions it is only possible to deal cursorily with the objects which absorb the attention of the visitor, and but lightly to scan the treasures that are on exhibition.

In the departments dealing with the ancient world, specimens of the writing implements used in early times are shown, as well as facsimiles of the handwriting of the heroes of antiquity. Models of the vehicles in use in those days are to be seen, and also the harness and equipment of both draught beasts and those of burden. The latitude that the custodians of the Museum have allowed themselves has even permitted them to go further, and models are provided of the ships used for mercantile purposes under the monarchs of Assyria and Egypt, and by the merchants of Greece and of Rome. We are told nothing of the cities of the two aforementioned empires, but with regard to the early European states fuller information is vouchsafed. Plans of the streets of Greece, of Rome, and of the early North German towns are furnished, although charts of that description seem hardly necessary for a complete education in the postal history of Europe.

In the next sections, those dealing with the Middle Ages and

later centuries, similar information is supplemented by descriptions of the weights in use, of the litters used for the conveyance of goods and presumably letters, and of the carrier pigeon service for messenger purposes. Then follow representations of human messengers, facsimiles of letters and envelopes, copies of early newspapers, and specimens of the writing materials with the assistance of which the masterpieces of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries were composed. Models are furnished of the post offices, coaches and post carts in use at that date. Representations are given of the servants of the German post offices of two and three hundred years ago.

The beginning of a regular postal service is dated towards the end of the sixteenth century, and from that time matters are dealt with even more exhaustively. Pictures and models of early post offices are in profusion. Some of the original signs that used to hang outside these houses have been preserved, as well as innumerable other objects of great technical interest. The uniforms of letter carriers of different periods are to be seen in this collection, and models of the post carts have been obtained. The Museum is not, however, devoted to the official services alone. Private enterprise has not been neglected, and from the eighteenth century onward portions of the exhibits relate to the private individuals who endeavoured to benefit themselves by furnishing greater facilities for intercourse between their fellow countrymen.

Section six is solely concerned with the German postal arrangements during the nineteenth century, and in this department those responsible for the Museum have placed no restraint upon their ardour. Models of German post offices are to be counted by the score, and plans and photographs of similar buildings are almost innumerable. Besides reproductions of the buildings themselves, specimens of the decorations and symbolic representations in the various cities of the Empire are shown, the collection in many instances containing both models and photographs of the same objects.

In close proximity to these are many other objects in use in the postal service of those states. The collection is very rich in all its departments. For instance, the collection of official locks, which contains specimens of Roman, early Egyptian, and old German workmanship, also includes such modern masterpieces of that craft as those known as "Bramah" and "Chubb."

Then come specimens of the uniforms and equipment of German postal and telegraph servants of almost all ages, and drawings and

paintings of these self-same officials in full dress on official service. Models of mail carts, of railway sorting carriages, and even of mail boats, have their allotted place, and in connection with the first-named, specimens of the harness in use at different dates are on view.

The Military Post Office has a section to itself, and the expression is, of course, favoured with the widest possible interpretation.

Foreign countries are not so fully dealt with as the Fatherland, but in each sub-department there is plenty to arouse the interest and fix the attention of the visitor. Each country has its sub-sections, to any one of which a whole article could be devoted. The department relating to Great Britain contains engravings, paintings and photographs of many of the English Post Offices. Views of the interior of the London office at the beginning of the last century, sketches depicting incidents in the coaching days, even models of the early stage-coaches, and of the travelling post offices of the present day. Turning from the essentially official exhibits, the collection is supplemented by representations of early locomotives and present day railway trains, of luggage trains, cattle trains, omnibuses, jaunting cars, yachts, H.M.S. "Victory," balloons, and the Thames Tunnel.

The portion of the catalogue relating to telegraphy and telephony occupies seventy pages. Under Division XXI. are contained copies of the Postal Conventions and Agreements with the autographs of the representatives of all nations at the Congresses; statutes and ordinances from as early a date as 1345 on subjects akin to the Post Office; letters of appointment of various officials from the sixteenth century onwards; and other interesting documents relating to the German Post Office throughout its career.


The library contains over a thousand volumes of literature, in addition to newspapers and music, and the English wanderer, seeking eagerly for relief from the medley of unknown tongues that appalled him, restrained himself with difficulty from uttering shouts of joy when he at length discovered old acquaintances in such familiar works as "The Post Office Guide," "Rules for Head Postmasters," and "Rules for Sub-Postmasters."

On the postage stamps, the busts, and the portraits separate articles of some length might well be written. To the interested the best advice that can be offered is, to visit the Museum itself, or if that be inconvenient, to take up with zeal and determination an organised study of its excellent catalogue.

S.O., G.P.O.

ALBERT M. HYAMSON.

Scottish Postal Reforms in 1760.

NDER the heading "New Regulations of the Scottish Posts" the *Scots Magazine* for May, 1760, contains an article relative to the postal arrangements of that period. A summary of the particulars may possess at least an antiquarian interest after a lapse of over 140 years.

The regulations referred to were brought about, we are told, "as the result of a long agitation." Is it not refreshing to think that we too have our little agitations, both within and without the Department, even at this later date? Without a great stretch of imagination we can experience a fellow-feeling for those agitators of old—

" Whose distant footsteps echo
Through the corridors of time."

I, for one, must confess to an impression that their lineal descendants, like the poor, will be always with us. If not, then indeed will we be living in a veritable Utopia.

The changes in this instance took effect on Monday, the 28th April, 1760. On the morning of that day the mails from the west and the north arrived at Edinburgh; and in the evening the mails for England and for the west and north were despatched thence. The advantages arising from this method were pointed out with all due solemnity in a notice issued by the General Post Office, dated the 13th May. Formerly the posts for England set out from Edinburgh on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday at twelve o'clock midnight, *en route* for Newcastle. The post for London left the latter city on Tuesday, Friday, and Sunday at 8 p.m. precisely, which time could not be extended without bringing the whole northern mail too late into London. As the distance between Edinburgh and Newcastle is about 117 miles by road, and two hours were required for the despatch of business at Berwick, the mail took nearly twenty-four hours on this part of the journey. In consequence it reached Newcastle shortly after the post had set out for London, and correspondence was delayed two days. Of course, to obviate this it was only necessary to adapt the times of departure from Edinburgh to fit in with the despatches from Newcastle, yet this had to be accomplished by means of "a long agitation." The

hour of departure from Edinburgh was now fixed at 8 p.m. on Monday, Thursday, and Saturday, the correspondence reaching Newcastle on the following day in time to be included in the London mail. This it was computed would mean a saving of "a post," or two days, on letters for all England beyond the Tyne, and also for the South of Ireland, which circulated by this route.

No alteration was at this time made on the posts from England which arrived in Edinburgh on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday, "seldom sooner than eleven before noon, or later than eight at night." The posts for the west and north of Scotland, however, which set out on Tuesday and Thursday at 8 p.m., and on Sunday at 10 a.m., were now to leave on Monday and Saturday at 9 p.m., and on Wednesday at 10 p.m.—the evening of the days on which the mails from England, as well as from the west and north of Scotland, arrived; but the west and north posts were never to be despatched from Edinburgh till four hours after the arrival from London, so that the merchants might have time to write their country clients in connection with the communications received from the south.

To give relief to the city of Glasgow from the inconvenience of a Sunday post an express mail was to be despatched thence on Monday at eleven in the forenoon, reaching Edinburgh before the London or any of the Scotch posts set out in the evening.

"By these regulations," the chronicler remarks, "the correspondence between Scotland and England is greatly accelerated." Indeed, the reforms seem to have been necessary and efficacious in their day and generation, though we may well wonder what would have been thought of our modern "Down" and "Up Special Mails," T.P.O.'s, and Sorting Tenders.

The question of Sunday postal work gave great offence to the douce Sabbath-keeping Scotch in many places. So serious a view was taken of it at Glasgow, that in spite of the Department's efforts to ameliorate "the inconvenience" of such a post, a petition on the subject from the ministers and elders of the city was laid before the Presbytery and transmitted to the General Assembly.

The petitioners asserted:—

"That by a late alteration in the course of the post, whereby he arrives in this populous place on Sabbath morning and returns the same night, there is great reason to apprehend that the sanctification of the Sabbath, so solemnly enjoined, and on which the very being of religion so much depends, will be neglected, and that holy

day in whole or in part turned into a day of worldly business by many.

* * * * *

“It is well known that the City of Glasgow carries on an extensive trade, and a trade so much transacted by receiving and answering of letters in course of post, that a scheme of this kind must, in the nature of the thing, be attended with unspeakably worse consequences here than in other places where the circumstances are different. This consideration has indeed procured a provision in the scheme of a courier to set out from Glasgow every Monday morning at eleven o'clock. But from what has already appeared this provision, however well intended, is likely to prove but a poor insufficient remedy. The courier can only assist our merchants in their correspondence with England, and perhaps a very little with Edinburgh; but with respect to all the posts that go to our port, and other places to the westward of us, the courier is wholly insignificant, and they must either lose the Sabbath's post entirely, or absent themselves from public worship in the forenoon, and prepare their letters for going off with the posts that set out against two o'clock.

* * * * *

“The Postmaster has given notice to all the traders that if they incline to have their letters on Sabbath care shall be taken to send them to their houses; and not a few have already called for them between sermons. Nay, we are assured there is an express statute subjecting postmasters to a penalty of £20 sterling if they do not deliver our letters, when insisted for, within an hour after the arrival of the post.

“These facts, we apprehend, will satisfy the Rev. Presbytery that our fears with respect to the observation of the Sabbath are not chimerical, but too well founded; and although some decency may be observed at the beginning, yet by and by, through the natural tendency of evil practices, the habit of reading and answering letters and talking of business on the Lord's Day will so prevail that we shall see Divine ordinances neglected, our street taverns and coffee-houses crowded, servants and porters going messages, and all the while the infection spreading among the lower classes of people, who are so ready to follow the example of their superiors in rank and substance.

* * * * *

“May it therefore please the Rev. Presbytery to take this weighty affair into their most serious consideration, and transmit this petition

to the ensuing General Assembly; and, further, to instruct their commissioners to insist in the most earnest manner that the Assembly take such further measures as their wisdom shall deem proper for procuring us and the other towns concerned in this alteration of the course of the post deliverance from so great a calamity."

This formidable indictment was duly discussed by a sub-committee of the General Assembly which met at Edinburgh on the 15th May of the same year. Indeed, proposals were made to the authorities of the Post Office with a view practically to terminate the Sunday posts, at least as far as Glasgow was concerned.

We have been unable to find out whether the powers that be paid any attention to the Reverend Assembly's advice in the matter or not. If they did the ever-rolling stream of time has swept away all traces of it now; and it isn't by any means the only "good resolution" that has shared a similar fate.

Manchester.

JOHN S. RAMSAY.



POST OFFICE IN GERMAN EAST AFRICA.

[One of a set of ten *Comical Post Cards* published by Stanley Gibbons Limited, 391, Strand, W.C.]

Scraps from a Holiday Diary.

EDINBURGH, 9th August, 1901.



ABOVE all other things during this hot and trying summer, I have desired fresh air, and so, as soon as I have been able to leave London, I have come to Scotland. I always have the holiday feeling very strongly when I am walking down Princes Street, and it is a pleasant experience to begin one's holiday in this gay and inspiring thoroughfare. The beautiful city looks her best, and as I dine on a balcony facing the castle, with plenty of blue sky above me, and the sea air from the Firth of Forth entering into my lungs, Addle Hill, E.C., becomes like the distant recollection of a bad dream. The primary condition of a happy holiday is to lock up your past with your silver before you start, and to live absolutely in the present. I can always detach myself easily from both my business and my London pleasures provided I am helped by my surroundings, and I am especially sensitive to what is called the *genius loci*. So is Angelina, and that is why, it seems to me, she is, unlike me, a little uneasy in Edinburgh. "You may have locked up your own disgraceful past in London," she says icily to me, "but mine is all round me here in this city of my youth. Here comes another old schoolfellow. Let us escape up the Scott Monument." We then go along a few steps. A lady with grey hair and widow's weeds bows to Angelina. "What," I say wickedly, "another old schoolfellow!" and up goes the chin. After a few hours of this sort of thing, Angelina decides that we must make a move. We don't, however, leave Edinburgh before we have climbed Arthur's Seat. We go up there on a hot morning to obtain a little mountain air, and we have been well rewarded. We could look down upon Auld Reekie undisturbed by the presence of old schoolfellows, and we have been able to re-create in ourselves a genuine taste for hill climbing. There is an old Gaelic saying which translates as "Blue are the hills which are far away," and it is the glimpse of the distant hills from Arthur's Seat which has fired our imagination rather than the view of Edinburgh through its veil of smoke and mist, which the guide book tells us is what we have ascended the mountain to obtain.

Dunbar, *12th August, 1901.*

We are thirty miles to the bad, which in my present state of mind means the south. We have already retraced our steps and are nearer London than we were three days ago. We are staying in their father's house with two of the old schoolfellows. We like



THE TOWN HALL, DUNBAR.

Dunbar. It has none of the usual attractions of an English watering place ; it does not even lay itself out to provide amusements for the visitors who come for the season ; it is too proud a little town to own any dependence on trippers. There is golf, of course, and there are glorious walks along the cliffs, and little rock-bound bays, where the North Sea tumbles in, almost suggesting her big

Atlantic sister, but there are no bands, no niggers, and no promenade pier. It is, moreover, an old-world place with rich historical associations, which in a few hours get hold of you and send you back in imagination several hundred years. The one unseemly thing in the picturesque High Street is the contents sheet of *The Scotsman* outside the newsagent's shop. For what has Dunbar to do with current politics? Some three miles or so away from us, and in full view of our windows, is Doon Hill, a broad shouldered, somewhat barren bit of mountain, but it has a soul of its own, breathed into it two hundred and fifty years ago, when Oliver Cromwell defeated the Scottish Army, who, previous to the battle, had occupied the hill. It was curious to notice how the view of the hill from our windows fascinated everybody in the house. My host, who is a distinguished civil servant in Edinburgh and a member of the legal profession, and who is interested keenly in modern politics, is as affected as I am by the atmosphere of Dunbar. I walk into the dining room early this morning; my host is standing at the window shading his eyes with his hands as he looks over the rich country towards Doon Hill—he has thrown away impatiently the morning's *Scotsman*—and he turns to me with agitation in his demeanour and voice: "Whatever possessed the Scots to abandon that magnificent position?" Later on in the day I find one of the daughters at the same window, looking dreamily across the same country, and I offer her a penny for her thoughts. And she replies, "I saw in imagination the Scottish Army on the Hill, and I was putting to myself Carlyle's question, 'What is to become of Oliver?'" At breakfast and at dinner time we discuss the tactics not of De Wet or of Kitchener, but of Oliver and David Lesley, and I, the friend of lost causes and impossible loyalties, find myself mourning with these Scottish people over the fate of Lesley. This afternoon the younger daughter of the house and I have essayed to climb Doon Hill, but a terrible thunderstorm made us seek cover under a shed for an hour or more, when only a short way up, and before the storm was over we sympathised a little with Lesley in his decision to abandon the Hill. At any rate we followed suit, and our respect for the mountain is considerably increased. Our kind host has taken us during our visit for a drive to North Berwick, which is full of life and gaiety and well dressed people, and has fine golf links, with good bracing air, but it is a place without a soul. It would seem sacrilege to read *M.A.P.*, *The Week End* or *The Tatler* in Dunbar; but in North Berwick these

papers can be enjoyed in congenial surroundings. I even saw the *Daily Mail* being read on the beach.

Ardlui,

Loch Lomond, 15th August.

We are at the head of Loch Lomond, and we have sailed up the loch under beautiful conditions. That is to say, we have been deluged by showers of rain, interspersed with visitations of bright sunshine. Those who pray for dry weather in Scotland know not what they ask. ~ Bright intervals is all that should be desired by the lovers of the beautiful. For when the sun shines on the banks of Loch Lomond after a downpour of rain, every leaf and rock glistens,



BEN LOMOND.

the water sparkles, beautiful shadows come and go, and you find yourself wondering whether this can be the same lake that you saw last year on a dry and hot day. Poor soulless southerners laugh at the Scotchman when he remarks, on a day which in the south we should call, from the meteorological point of view, a *dies non*, "It's a grand day, Sir," but the Scotchman is perfectly right. We are too lazy, too luxurious, too much afraid of a little discomfort, and we huddle together in the saloon, cursing the Scottish weather and the Scottish weather forecasts, while on deck to a select few the highest is being revealed. I was among that select few, and Angelina, who remained in the saloon, only remarked, when I subsequently gave her the benefit of these sentiments, that my incorrigible optimism was very boring, and she wished she had married a man who was liable to occasional attacks of nervous depression. Wordsworth, who ought to have been ashamed of

himself for the utterance, said, after a visit to Loch Lomond in company with Coleridge in 1803, "that the proportion of diffused water was too great," and Angelina seems inclined to agree with him. Christopher North was highly indignant at this criticism of Wordsworth and said, "It is out of our power to look on Loch Lomond without a feeling of perfection. The diffusion of water is indeed great, but in what a world it floats." Wordsworth was a curious mixture of the poetic and the analytic temperaments; with the one he saw Windermere, and with the other Loch Lomond, and with what a different result. Christopher North was the truer poet on this occasion. I like his refreshing dogmatism. To depreciatory criticism he replies, without touching the particular objection, "It is perfection," and he voiced what is on the lips of most tourists who visit these parts. A beautiful object which arouses for the moment enthusiasm and delight is always in a sense "perfection," and the greatest bore and mental irritant is he who, at the very moment you are drinking in the glory of the scene, comes and whispers in your ear, "This bit reminds me a little of Lucerne, how much more delicate is the setting of Windermere," &c. He is standing beside you, but in thought and in feeling he is miles away from you, and you are quite sincere when you mentally consign him to perdition.

Fort William, *16th August.*

The railway from Ardlui by the West Highland route is the most picturesque bit of line I have ever travelled along. It is a panorama of "mountain, moor, and loch" throughout its entire length from Craigendoran to Mallaig on the West Coast, upwards of 150 miles, and as the trains are composed of corridor carriages comfortably upholstered, the travelling is a luxury as well as an artistic treat. I visited Fort William on my way up the Caledonian Canal more than twenty years ago from Oban before the railway was thought of, and I scarcely now recognise the place, so many changes have occurred in the interval. "The Fort" has been turned into a railway siding, and modern villas adorn the sides of the hill overlooking Loch Linnhe. But Ben Nevis looks much the same, and MacBrayne's old boats with the red funnels, the "Chevalier," "Mountaineer" and "Fusilier," so dear to William Black, are still carrying their daily load of delighted tourists. The sad, somewhat plaintive, Highland voices are a reminder that we are getting farther north, but in our hotel the Englishman and the American are in full possession. We decide to go on to Mallaig to place Angelina's

sister, who is with us, on a boat for Stornoway, where she is going on a visit, and to return ourselves to Fort William and take rooms for a week. So after dinner we go out into the town to look for rooms. We enter the shop of Mr. MacDougall, the stationer, and he knows of the very place we are seeking for. He gives us the address of the lady and we go out to find her. She is evidently a great favourite in Fort William. Angelina goes up to a melancholy looking Highlander who was standing at the corner, and asks him if he



FORT WILLIAM AND BEN NEVIS.

can direct her to the house of the lady whom we will call Mrs. Macdonald. "Aye, aye," he exclaimed, and then altered his tone; "Jeanie Macdonald, Jeanie Macdonald, Jeanie Macdonald," he repeated to himself with such tragedy in his voice and such a look of infinite regret in his eyes that Angelina left him in pity, feeling that she had aroused some painful memory of an old love story. Then he came after her slowly, remembering her question, and pointed out the house; "Aye, aye," he said sadly, "Jeanie Macdonald is the woman who will make you happy in Fort William. See, that is her window with the light burning inside." And we found Jeanie to be a woman worthy of this Highlander's worship. She

was a sweet pensive looking little lady, whose careworn wrinkles had but intensified her peculiar beauty, and she had a voice which seemed to assure you of a sympathetic soul within her frail body. She admitted that her house was very full, that she had not much room to spare for us, but as she pointed out with rare Celtic grace, "Folk who are nice do not mind being put about a little at this time of year." Jeanie Macdonald has given us a reputation to live up to: we are not in a position to make any complaints. Folk who are nice don't complain. Wise, artful Jeanie! We believe that in her youth she played with that melancholy Highlander.

Mallaig, 17th August.

We have now travelled the whole length of the West Highland line, and the best section is, in our opinion, the last forty miles. Mallaig is a place almost created by the railway, which was only opened in April to this point; it has a big hotel and a new pier, and it is in a beautiful position. Opposite you is the entrance to the Sound of Sleat and the Isle of Skye, while to the left are the Islands of Rum, Eigg, and Muck. Angelina wants to get over to the last-named island and write letters to her friends on the hotel note paper of the place, or to dispatch picture post cards containing views of the island. She says it sounds so far away, and the name takes her fancy on account of its associations. But Muck appears to be difficult of approach from this point, and Angelina has to content herself with making a sketch of the island on a post card, which she dispatches with a more or less truthful statement embodied on it as to her whereabouts. In the "Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides," Boswell tells us the Laird of Muck was not called "Muck," in order that his feelings might be spared: he was called "the Isle of Muck," which surely made him ridiculous. Our sister entreats us to cross to Stornoway and accept with her the kind hospitality of the United Free Church Minister of the place, but the mainland is beautiful enough for us. We have caught a glimpse of Glenfinnan and Loch Shiel on our way to Mallaig, and we are not in the mood for the sea. It is but a tame, land-locked bit of sea at Mallaig, but farther out the Minch holds out possibilities which Angelina declines to face. And the sea air on this coast has not the bracing qualities of the air of Dunbar. "The proportion of diffused water" in the air seems also very great.

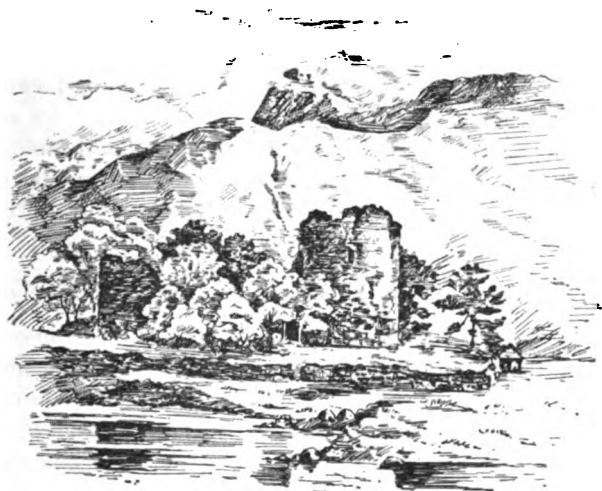
Fort William, 23rd August.

Angelina and I are back again in Fort William, this time under the protection of Jeanie MacDonald. Her house is certainly very full,

and to add to her difficulties with lodgers, two daughters, a son, and a friend, who are all in situations, have come to spend their holidays with her. Jeanie is full of resources, and on the first night of their invasion she solved the accommodation difficulty by sending the whole family party up Ben Nevis. They started off at 11.30 p.m., and were back to an eight o'clock breakfast the next morning, having seen the sun rise under beautiful and exceptional conditions. We rather fancy two of the party slept in our sitting room during the day, while we were out, but as we are nice people we made no remark. We pay a daily visit to our friend Mr. MacDougall, who takes a fatherly interest in us; we report progress and we tap his weather glass. He knows everything there is to be known about Fort William, and his weather glass is always rising. If his reports of its vagaries can be relied upon his glass must have ascended Ben Nevis twice over while we were in Fort William. Mr. Alexander Stewart, the grocer, is also extremely kind to us. We cannot get him to tell us what we owe him. He heaps butter, cheese, eggs, and kippered herrings upon us, and when we tell him we are perhaps leaving suddenly on the morrow, he merely laughs derisively and packs up more herrings for us. For are not we staying in the house of Jeanie MacDonald, whom all Fort William seems anxious to serve? Or is it Angelina's insinuating voice which bewitches him? This morning I was sitting on the pier, and a Highlander, of the poorer class, got into conversation with me. He talked of the scenery and of the associations of the place, and then, rather to my surprise—for he was so evidently respectable—he suggested to me that I might have a few spare pence about me. "The fact is," he said rather frankly, "I had a wee drappie last night, and was very bad. It leaves me quite disinclined for work this morning." I told him I had considerable sympathy with his disinclination for work, and I admired the frank way in which he admitted his frailty; a southerner, in similar circumstances, would have been more evasive of the questions at issue. I gave him sixpence, and he remarked proudly that the sum would enable him to see his difficulties through: he raised his hat, and wished us a good time in the Highlands. He expressed no repentance and gave no assurance of good behaviour in the future, but a few minutes afterwards we saw him coming out of the grocer's, and so we believe our sixpence was really spent in necessities. He always raised his hat proudly when he met me afterwards, but made no subsequent appeal for assistance.

We have climbed several of the hills in the immediate neighbour-

hood, but hitherto we have not attempted Ben Nevis. The presence of this big monster towering behind Fort William rather worries us. I understand fully the fascination a mountain exercises over one, and the way in which one is gradually compelled to make the attempt to conquer it. The attempts on the Alps are often called foolhardy, especially if they result in accident, but the state of mind which inspires them is quite intelligible to all who have lived in the shadow of a great mountain. Little by little the ascent becomes, in your imagination, the one important thing in life you are called upon to



OLD INTERLOCHY CASTLE AND BEN NEVIS.

do; you begin to talk of nothing else, to think of nothing else, but of placing the ascent of the mountain among the assets of your misspent life. I thought I was cured of the fever after my last visit to the Alps, but here it is taking possession of me as strongly as ever. As for Angelina, she is more sorely stricken than I am, and has set her heart on the task. We say we are only waiting for a favourable day, but we know our hesitation proceeds from the mere delight in exaggerating the importance and the difficulties of the climb. Meanwhile we walk up Glen Nevis, examine well the bases of the mountain, we climb the Cow Hill and the lower slopes of Meal-an-t-suie, we mount to the top of Meall-nan-Cleireach, some 1,626 feet high, and we laugh at the guide book which tells us "that the views from these lower heights are so beautiful and varied that one marvels at the desire of many people to undergo the toil involved

in the ascent of Ben Nevis, when they can obtain as good results with much less trouble." Angelina boldly admits she is not going up Ben Nevis for the view. She is going up because somebody told her in London she would never be able to do it. I really don't know why I am going up, unless it be to see Angelina safely through her resolve, and I hear you can obtain refreshments at the top.

Ben Nevis Observatory, 26th August, 1901.

It is now 3.15 p.m., and we started from Fort William at 10.45 a.m. We have not beaten the record. Some years ago, Mr. William Swan, of Fort William, started from the Post Office, Fort William, climbed to the top of the mountain, drank one cup of tea, and was back again at the Post Office in two hours and fifty minutes. The same trip took us seven hours and forty-five minutes, and we scarcely think Mr. William Swan can have enjoyed his outing. We selected a sunny morning with a north wind, hoping the result would be a cool climb, and at the top a view free from cloud and mist. Up to 3,500 feet our expectations were fully realised, but in the last thousand feet of the long, rough, and somewhat tedious climb, the weather quickly changed and we arrived at the top in a blinding snowstorm. No view, no glorious prospect of mountain and ocean, and we were happy to shake the snow off our clothes, warm ourselves by a coal fire, and drink Bovril. In the calmer atmosphere of London, such taking of pleasure seems foolishness, but no one can have watched Angelina's countenance at that moment and come to any conclusion but that this was one of the happiest moments of her life. To telegraph to the scoffing London friend the news of her achievement was her first action on arriving at the Observatory, and not until this was done did she sink down by the fire in a sort of *Nunc Dimittis* mood. How could I feel otherwise than proud at being linked for life to so determined a partner? How could I do anything but pay cheerfully for the new pair of boots she was compelled to purchase on the morrow?

Glenfinnan, 27th August, 1901.

We have come here for the day. It means going over old ground, but we felt that we could not leave Scotland without visiting Loch Shiel again. There is no doubt of the fact that beautiful places impress themselves more upon the imagination when they are linked with some historical association. Glenfinnan is associated with the attempt of Charles Edward to wrest the throne of his ancestors from George the Second in 1745. Here, on the 29th August of that year, some of the clans rallied to his standard and he found himself at the

head of a mere handful of men. On a flat piece of ground at the head of the lake is a round tower with a graceful statue at the top, representing Prince Charlie looking anxiously up the glen for the troops that had promised to rally to him. Indeed the whole district teems with memories of Prince Charlie, and there is something about the lonely lake and the romantic character of the glen scenery which seem to fit in with forlorn hopes and sentimental causes. This is an age which falls down and worships successful men, big empires, and great fortunes, but poetry and high imagination die out in the presence of low ideals such as these; they cling the more closely to the unsuccessful heroes of the world, to the struggles of the little



GLENFINNAN MONUMENT AND LOCH SHIEL.

nations, to the deeds which have failed, and to the hopes which have not been realised. At the back of the minds of all of us lies what Ruskin calls the pathetic fallacy, the feeling that certain places and certain moods of nature are in sympathy with us and speak to us of our own joys and sorrows. Glenfinnan is the place for the "passed over" in the Service. It will speak to such men of the beauty that can make failure appear a success, and of the sordidness of our London standards of conduct. At Glenfinnan you must needs be a Jacobite if you wish to feel completely the subtle charm of the place. Loch Shiel's lonely grandeur will knock all the pushfulness out of you. A Scotch laird sent up his servant to London to see the Great Exhibition, and when the servant returned, the laird said, "Well, Donald, and what impressed you most in London?" "Weel, Sir," answered Donald, "I'm thinking it was my ain insignificance." The Londoner can indeed return the compliment when he is sitting beside Loch Shiel.

Glencoe, 28th August, 1901.

You can visit Glencoe very easily from Fort William. You take the "Mountaineer" down Loch Finnhe, and you are at Ballachulish in a little over an hour. No places are more widely different than Glenfinnan and Glencoe; but it is difficult to say in what the difference consists. There is the lake in both cases: there is the glen, and there are in each places finely shaped mountains. Again, it is historical associations which have given a certain character to Glencoe. Prince Charlie's eager face looking for his Highlanders who never came dominates one's recollections of Glenfinnan: it is the story of the great massacre which heightens for us the gloom and the magnificence of Glencoe. The sordid murder of the sailor on Hind Head has given for all time a touch of gloomy human interest to that dark Surrey hill, and an artist in massacre could have selected no more fitting spot for his purpose than this Scottish glen. The tourists who drive along in the char-a-bancs seem to lose all their gaiety on entering the glen; they become thoughtful and subdued, and the very drivers talk in a reverential voice as they point out to you various spots associated with the massacre. Angelina has been trying to convince me that the particular Highland clan to which she belongs was connected in some way with the great event, but she does not seem to be clear as to whether they massacred, were massacred, or were only about to massacre. She is angry when I try to clear up this point, she is annoyed that I do not realise that to her distorted moral consciousness it is an honour to be connected in any way with an event which is mentioned in history. She rudely asks, "Who are the Bennetts?" "What have they done?" "Are *they* mentioned in history?"

Glasgow, 28th August, 1901.

We travelled by the morning train from Fort William, and we have visited the Glasgow Exhibition this afternoon. We were there three hours. We have no record of the time occupied by Mr. William Swan of Ben Nevis fame on the same task, but we fancy we have done him this time. The exhibits in the Refreshment Room were good but expensive, and we thought the buildings and general arrangement of the grounds extremely picturesque. Let us hope Mr. Swan saw more of the rest than we did.

Dunbar, 29th August, 1901.

Dunbar detains us for a few hours on our way home. Our kind host greets the travel-stained wanderers warmly, with the *Scotsman* in his hand. The mother and daughters embrace us; I use the

plural pronoun in deference to the ruling of the church that in marriage the man and the woman are one. We feel at home again with these kind people. The Highlands with their big hotels and their cosmopolitan tourists seem so modern beside Dunbar. We have come back to the past. I follow my host to the window prepared to discuss with him Lord Kitchener's proclamation, but our eyes wander simultaneously over the rich country to Doon Hill, and South African problems vanish from our minds. He looks at me sympathetically; he seems to know instinctively I am with him; I



THE ROYAL BORDER BRIDGE, BERWICK-ON-TWEED.

"The Union of the two countries is now complete."—*Robert Stephenson.*

shake his hand warmly and slowly. "Yes," I murmur, "it was all up the moment Lesley decided to abandon the hill." And we both gazed sorrowfully at the scene of "the Dunbar rout." Again the daughters of the house and I walked round the base of the mountain over the scene of the battle, but I leave Dunbar with the hill itself unconquered.

Berwick-on-Tweed, 30th August.

We have spent a night here on our way south, loth to leave Scotland. We linger on the Border looking over the Tweed to the open country of England. Berwick deserves a longer visit. The ancient wall, unlike most other walls, really encloses the town, and the wall forms a complete circle. There are no tourists here, but the air is as bracing as Margate, and the constant arrivals of fishing boats are more interesting to watch than the unloading of cockneys by London steamboats.

York, 1st September.

The last day of our holiday, and we are spending the morning in York. Angelina is delighted with the Minster, which she admires in a dignified reverential manner; she reserves her enthusiasm for the North-Eastern Hotel. She wanders up and down the long corridors, into the various reception rooms, tries all the chairs, and finally decides that next year we must come to York. It is indeed a magnificent hotel, but we ought really to have devoted more time to



THE SHAMBLES, YORK.

the Minster. It is a sad thought that after the money that has been spent on this tour to the Western Highlands, after the beautiful spots we have visited, and the wonderful mountains we have climbed, the only place that has roused Angelina's enthusiasm sufficiently to evoke a determination to revisit it, is the Station Hotel, York. "That breakfast at York" are the words I continually overhear when Angelina is describing her experiences to her friends.

Addle Hill, E.C., 2nd September, 1901.

Like my friend the Highlander "I feel quite disinclined for work," and I am not in a position to seek his easy remedy. But Addle Hill air is better than it was, for a miracle has happened since I wrote last July in these pages, and my windows open. And I have lost in weight ten pounds, and as my Chiefs assure me, I still have a future. Besides, I am in London again, and London and I are boon companions. I think I will take a walk down Fleet Street.

EDWARD BENNETT.

“R. W. J.”

FEW men, perhaps, are better known throughout the Service than the owner of these initials, who retired in June last. He occupied a prominent position on both “sides” of the Service, and he travelled much in the early telegraph days, generally making friends wherever he went, albeit his mission was more or less calculated to upset local traditions, and to wound local susceptibilities. He was a “telegraph



“R. W. J.”

man” in a sense different from the usual application of that term, because he entered the Postal Service proper nearly ten years before the transfer of the telegraphs took place, and had attained a considerable position prior to that event. But his principal exploits were in the telegraphic field, and throughout his long service he had a warm side to what he always considered his “first love.”

Mr. Johnston was born near Edinburgh in 1838, and entered the service of the late Electric Telegraph Company in that city in 1853, so that he has been serving the public for nearly half-a-century, or 48 years to be exact. Almost his only contemporary still remaining in the service is his life-long friend, Mr. James Gibson, senior

superintending telegraph engineer in the United Kingdom, who has stuck to the Scottish Division during the whole of his long and useful career. Comparing notes on a recent occasion, these two veterans came to the conclusion that the furthest back event in their official career which they could recall was standing on the balcony of the old Telegraph Office in Princes Street watching the troops leaving Edinburgh Castle for the Crimea! There are probably few men in the Service to-day who can claim such a far-off reminiscence. When Mr. Johnston entered the Telegraph Service it required two wires to send a message over the shortest distance, and the charge for a telegram from Edinburgh to London was something like ten or twelve shillings. The double-needle instrument was the only one in use, and it required both a "reader" and a "writer" to receive messages at anything like a decent speed. "Writers," indeed, were quite common in the days of the old Morse embosser, but the advent of the Sounder changed all that. In the double-needle days the wires were very bad, messages had to be re-transmitted several times on their journey from Edinburgh to London, and sometimes the lines were broken down for days together in the winter time. With the advent of the Morse system it became practicable to work much longer distances than formerly, and Mr. Johnston recalls an occasion when he assisted at Edinburgh to "relay" a message which went straight through from Balmoral to Berlin. The occasion was a fine summer Sunday morning, when all was quiet along the line, and the arrangements were in the hands of that consummate electrical genius, Cromwell Fleetwood Varley, then chief electrician to the Electric Telegraph Company. Mr. R. S. Culley, who became engineer-in-chief to the Company, and who served the Post Office for some time in that capacity, was superintendent of the Scottish District at that time, and only died a week or two ago at the great age of 83.

Mr. Johnston was sent in charge of a country office, or "station," as it was then called, at the age of 16, his friend Gibson having already preceded him in the same capacity. They were on the same "circuit," and had many a battle royal for precedence on the wire, at a time when "code turn" was not so religiously observed as it is to-day. Our friend, being nearest to the transmitting centre, could cut his friend off at any time—not with the proverbial shilling, but with the earth-wire, which was always handy. And he did it, too! The telegraph offices were mostly at the railway stations in those days, and the telegraph companies lived, in fact, largely at the

expense of the railway companies. They paid no rent, burned the railway companies' coals and gas, used their stationery, and had a "high old time," as it is vulgarly called. All they did in return was to signal a few trains in the course of the day over wires for the erection or maintenance of which the railway companies probably paid an extravagant sum. But the latter have had their revenge on the Post Office, charging a rental for every mile of wire passing over their systems, besides a heavy maintenance charge, to say nothing of the free message privilege, which has attained to such proportions in these days. But the telegraph was a comparatively new thing half a century ago, and the railway companies fancied they could only command its use by making terms with the telegraph companies, whereas, to-day, they are masters of the situation, so to speak.

After a year or two of country station service, Mr. Johnston returned to Edinburgh, to be associated with his friend Mr. Andrew Gray, late Controller of Telegraphs in the Scottish capital, in the charge of the office. The Morse system was now in pretty general use, and London was regularly put through to Aberdeen, instead of messages for that office being transmitted at Edinburgh. The "Bain" system, a very ingenious method of transmission, invented by an Edinburgh clockmaker, was also in use, and it is not too much to say that it contained the germ of the Wheatstone system, which holds the field to-day. But Bain was poor and unfriended, and had no one to take him by the hand. What is worse, he was modest and retiring, and as is usual with neglected geniuses, he died in poverty. He was before his time, and those who have entered into his labours probably never heard of him! With the improvement in the methods of transmission, the charges were lowered, but it still cost four shillings to send a message to London, and it was not until the advent of the United Kingdom Telegraph Company that anything like a reasonable tariff was introduced. There was talk of State purchase and control which always died down again, and the companies, from being competitors, became confederates, and thus attempted to frustrate all the public efforts after reform.

In 1861, just 40 years ago, Mr. Johnston left the Telegraph Service for that of the Post Office. These were the good old days of nomination and limited competition, when men came in on their own merits, and not on the merits of a crammer, or as a product of one or other of the "Civil Service Factories" which now abound. At that time the whole business of the Post Office was carried on in the

parent building at St. Martin's-le-Grand, which was then intact, and had not been subjected to the many indignities which have been showered upon it in recent years, commencing with the shutting up of the Great Central Hall. Sir Rowland Hill was still secretary and Anthony Trollope a surveyor, and the Savings Bank had just come into existence. Mr. Johnston was "posted" to the Circulation Department, and soon made his way from one of the branches thereof to the Controller's Office, where Mr. Bokenham exercised his genial sway. At that time the Circulation Department embraced the whole of London, and the District Offices were presided over by deputy controllers. But soon after the districts were lopped off, a postmaster of each was appointed, and the whole were designated the "Metropolitan District," with a surveyor at its head. The first surveyor was Mr. A. M. Cunynghame, afterwards secretary at Edinburgh, and Mr. Trollope was entrusted with the organization of the system on provincial lines. Mr. Johnston was selected for the Western District, where the Surveyor's Office then was, and played the part of acting chief clerk for a time. Subsequently he was appointed chief clerk at the Northern District Office, and by-and-bye he returned to the chief office as assistant superintendent of the Inland Branch, having, in the meantime, performed a good deal of extra work in the Savings Bank Department, of which he has anything but a pleasing recollection.

In 1867, he published a pamphlet entitled "The Telegraph and its proposed acquisition by the Government," which attracted a good deal of notice in the Press, and amongst the Chambers of Commerce, his friend Mr. (afterwards Sir) George Harrison, the great telegraph reformer, being then president of the Edinburgh Chamber. By-and-bye the Telegraph Bill, for which Mr. Harrison was a strenuous witness, was passed; and in 1869, when Mr. Scudamore undertook the arduous task of re-organizing the system, he selected Mr. Johnston as one of his assistants, making him, in effect, instructor general of telegraphy to the Post Office Staff throughout the kingdom. This involved the creation of a staff of travelling instructors, who went about from office to office, and who did their work so well, that, on the day of the transfer of the system to the Post Office, there was not an office, however small or unimportant, without its more or less skilled operator. This corps of instructors then became a special staff for dealing with emergencies of all kinds throughout the telegraph service,

and when the telegraph establishment was fixed, Mr. Johnston was appointed controller of special arrangements and supervisor of schools of instruction throughout the kingdom. In this capacity he had a great deal to do with perfecting the arrangements for the transmission of news for the Press, and was brought into contact with most of the leading journalists of the day, many of whom became his warm friends. He was very closely associated with Mr. Scudamore in his dealings with the public and the Press, and he accompanied that gentleman to Edinburgh in the early "seventies," when he lectured before the Philosophical Institution and was entertained at a great banquet by the leading inhabitants of the city and county. He also, himself, lectured on the history and progress of the telegraph, in London (several times), Manchester, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Greenock, and Dundee; and there are probably none who will deny his claim to be considered one of the pioneers of the popular history and literature of the subject. He was a principal witness before the select committee which inquired into the administration of the telegraphs in the "seventies," and his evidence led to the introduction of the improved telegraph form, which has effected an enormous saving in useless words, to say nothing of the saving in stationery and printing.

It may, perhaps, be permissible here to give a short extract from a letter written by Mr. Scudamore to Mr. Johnston on his leaving the service in 1875:—

"I do not like to go away, especially in my present state of health, without thanking you very heartily for all your zealous, diligent, patient, and loyal exertions. Believe that I have the strongest possible regard for you, and that I consider myself immensely indebted to you for the success of the scheme which has been so beneficial to the public and the press. Good bye, and God bless you!"

These words reveal the secret of Mr. Scudamore's magnetic power over men, and show that great as were his qualities of head, his qualities of heart were, if possible, greater.

In 1878, the special arrangements branch having become merged in the Secretary's Office, Mr. Johnston was appointed Postmaster of the Eastern Central District, where the interests of the telegraph service are of supreme importance, and where his previous knowledge of postal matters proved invaluable. While here he did a great deal to reconstruct and extend the branch

office system and to extend the hour of posting for the night mails, as well as to expedite the deliveries throughout the City. He was a strong advocate of decentralisation, foreseeing, probably, the Mount Pleasant difficulty; and an exhaustive report of his on the subject probably led to his being appointed to the North Western District with a view to carrying out decentralisation. But the difficulty of obtaining a suitable site for new buildings limited his operations to Euston, where he organised the parcel post pretty much on the lines he had suggested for letters, viz.:—circulation from station to station instead of through one centre where congestion was inevitable. He was next appointed to the Western District, but some time before this he was a candidate for the Postmastership of Birmingham, in which he was only "beaten on the post" by Sam Walliker, then Postmaster of Hull.

In 1888, Mr. Johnston obtained the goal of his ambition, the Postmastership of Manchester, which may justly be regarded as the "blue ribbon" of the provincial service. Years before, he had fixed his eyes on this, on the principle that he who "ettles after a silk gown may aiblins get the sleeve"; but, like most coveted things, it turned out a disappointment, for the climate of the northern city proved too severe for his already somewhat enfeebled constitution, and his health broke down completely. But he remained long enough to see a fine new parcel office completed and occupied, and to carry out improvements and extensions of several of the branch offices, and to add considerably to the public facilities in the shape of new sub-offices, and especially new telegraph offices. He left Manchester with the deepest regret, not only because of the excellent relations which obtained between himself and his numerous staff, but because of the many friendships he formed, chiefly amongst his own compatriots, who were in the front rank, as usual, in the great commercial and banking establishments of the city. He had the happiness to be associated, officially, with the ablest of colleagues—such men as Mr. Charles Ambler, late chief clerk at Manchester; the late Mr. J. F. Moore, also chief clerk; Mr. R. W. Mason, late chief superintendent of telegraphs, now Postmaster of Huddersfield; Mr. John Doherty, superintending engineer, and, in a friendly way, with Mr. Ismay, the present chief clerk of Liverpool, who was an old telegraph colleague. On leaving Manchester, he was given the Postmastership of Hastings, where he has just finished his career, and there are few men, probably, who have held five postmasterships, a controllership, a surveyorship, and

several minor appointments, even in the space of 40 years. When he retired, several newspapers gave an appreciative account of his career, including the *Scotsman*, and his portrait appeared in the *Edinburgh Evening Dispatch* of 15th July last.

Nothing pleased Mr. Johnston more than to reflect on the good fortune which has attended most of the members of his old staff, with most of whom he maintained friendly relations to the last. One is a surveyor, several are postmasters, including those of Leicester, Hastings, Bolton, Bedford and Watford; his old lieutenant, Thomas Mason, who must be almost the "father" of the telegraph service, is now telegraph traffic manager; and Matthew Cooper, whose untimely death was noticed in the Magazine at the time, was in a fair way towards attaining one of the highest positions in the engineering department. Even his old messenger boy, when in the secretary's office, is now submarine cable superintendent at Dover! Although, probably, one of the most testimonialised of officials, Mr. Johnston was no hunter after popularity. He never aimed at being more than just to his subordinates, and he considers the best testimonial he ever received was from an old postman, who remarked to a mutual friend—a parson, by the way—"He's severe, but he's just." He considers this almost as good as the description of the present Archbishop of Canterbury when head master of Rugby: "Temple's a beast, but he's a just beast."

Mr. Johnston took a deep interest in all movements for the improvement of the social condition of the service. He was a member of the original Post Office Supply Association, and helped to weigh out the "historic chest of tea" which has developed into a business amounting to nearly two millions sterling per annum. He remembers the cupboard in the Receiver and Accountant-General's Office which did duty as a "stores" in the early days, and the shop in Bath Street, Newgate Street, kept by one "Wackett," with the name of Freeling Lawrence, "Dealer in Tea and Tobacco," above the door. When the Post Office Stores blossomed into the Civil Service Supply Association, and the committee of management seemed to be settling into their seats for life, Mr. Johnston formed a shareholders' defence association, of which he was chairman, to expose the abuses of the proxy system, and to prevent the re-election of the committee at stated intervals from degenerating into a farce; and he was instrumental in bringing about the more general use of receipt stamps, which was soon followed by the payment of income tax by the Association. He was a good deal abused for this, but he

saw that the only way to stop the mouths of the shopkeepers, who were up in arms at the stores about this time, was to draw their teeth in this way, and they have never attempted to bite since. These were the good old days when the shareholders assembled for other purposes than merely to register the acts of the committee, and pass votes of thanks; and when, on a certain historic occasion, a well-known shareholder, pointing to a member of the committee, exclaimed indignantly, "And there sits the chairman who *never* takes the chair." Another shareholder, now a member of the committee, was wont to hoist himself to the top of a partition in the Pillar Hall of the Cannon Street Hotel, and there harangue the meeting from what he described as his "coign of 'vantage'; while a third could never make out why furniture and hosiery were combined in the accounts, unless it was because, in the trade, tables were sometimes said to be fitted with "stockings"! There was a touch of humour in all this, which contrasts favourably with the dulness of the meetings to-day. Mr. Johnston frequently took part in the *mêlée*, and helped to lead the crusade against the promoters of that ill-starred enterprise, the Civil Service Bread Company, which created much excitement at the time, although the promoters showed little or no fight. He also, about fifteen years ago, gave notice of a motion to reduce the committee by one half, the other half to be styled the board of directors, and a general manager to be appointed, who should be a practical man, and should devote his whole time to the business of the association. He received quite an unexpected amount of encouragement to proceed with this motion, but absence in Scotland at the time of the meeting prevented his bringing it on, and subsequent ill-health prevented its revival at a future meeting. Amongst other matters in which he interested himself was Life Insurance, and he was instrumental in inducing many of his colleagues to insure their lives in the early days. Later, he was a member of the original War Office committee, which sat for a long period trying to formulate a scheme for a Civil Service Widows' and Orphans' Fund, and which resulted in the formation of the Civil Service Insurance Society, the success of which has been quite phenomenal. He was a member of the council of the Society down to the time of his retirement, the Hastings Office being regarded as a "separate department," in order to enable him to sit on that body; and, but for his premature retirement from the Postmastership of Manchester, he would have created a strong district centre there. He is a life member and one of the arbitrators of the

Post Office Orphan Homes, and took a keen interest in that institution when he was Postmaster of the Eastern Central District, usually taking the chair on the occasion of the annual "treat," and sometimes accompanying the children into the country. He is also a member of the Postal and Telegraph Benevolent Fund, usually presiding over the meetings of the local committee with which he was associated; and he is a member of the Post Office Clerks' Benevolent Fund, and presided over the annual meeting on one occasion.

He was a member of several departmental committees, notably Mr. Algernon Turner's committee on postal and telegraph salaries and wages, and the conference of practical officers which sat at Bushey for nearly a month; and he reflects with sadness that, with the exception of his old friend Mr. J. W. Hyde, the Controller at Edinburgh, not a single member of either remains on the active list to-day, while two or three have gone over to the great majority, including Sam Walliker and Tom Angell.

Mr. Johnston has always tried to keep his mind fresh and alert by having other than mere official interests on hand. He was a politician, so far as the rules of the Service permitted; a school manager under the London School Board, and a member of a London Vestry for several years. He rejoiced in the motto of the Johnston clan, "Ready; aye Ready," and did not repudiate the dictum of his friend Archibald Forbes, when he wrote concerning him that he seemed to suffer from a "chronic surcharge of electricity." He was wont to say, with a touch of humour, that he had never advanced beyond "the three R's"—reading, writing, and rose-growing; and he considers himself a bit of an expert in the last-mentioned pastime, and has occasionally contributed to the gardening newspapers on the subject.

So far we have said nothing concerning Mr. Johnston's services to *St. Martin's-le-Grand*, the Post Office Magazine, but the very length of the notice we are giving him is due in part to our appreciation of those services. R. W. J. has stuck to us in good report and in evil report: he has given us freely at one time and another of his inexhaustible store of reminiscences, and at other times and in private the benefit of his advice inspired by long experience. What *St. Martin's-le-Grand* owes to him is known to its fullest extent only perhaps to those who have served as Editor or Assistant Editor. We have had our differences with him; we honestly say we have not found him at all times the perfect man; he has the defects of

his qualities, the "chronic surcharge of electricity" that he suffers from has occasionally set the editorial department in a blaze, and we have prayed to be delivered from this somewhat wayward correspondent. And we have sulked in our tents, and have held no communication with him for a time. Then something has happened in the postal service, and we have wanted a man who can write about it with knowledge. The Editor has looked at the Assistant Editor, and the Assistant Editor divines his thought. "R. W. J. *could* do it, but can we ask him? Did not we speak out our mind to him only a few weeks ago?" Then we write to R. W. J., and like the warm-hearted man that we know him to be, he shakes hands with us and we tap still further his stock of knowledge. Editors invariably resent self-confidence and assertiveness on the part of their contributors. Such conduct is an infringement of their own copyright, and Mr. Johnston has his own share of both qualities. But underlying these characteristics the good heart of the man asserts itself, and his actions are controlled by his heart as much as by his head. Everybody knows R. W. J. has had enemies—what man of action does not have to admit the same charge? A man must be judged by the verdict of his friends, and *St. Martin's-le-Grand* wishes him good health and happiness in his well-earned retirement.

The Forty-seventh Report of the Postmaster-General.



HAD it been the practice a hundred years ago to present an annual report on the Post Office the Postmasters-General would have recorded that the gross revenue of the Post Office for the year 1800 had amounted to £1,084,000, that the expenditure was £363,000 and the net income £721,000, that some 200 mail coaches covering 10,000 miles a day were running in Great Britain, and that the work of the recently established Ship Letter Office was growing. They would probably have referred to the new scale of charges for inland letters, which came into operation in April, 1801, and under which the rates of postage were considerably increased, to the abolition of the London Penny Post after an existence of 120 years, and as the result of these changes they would have anticipated an increase of £150,000 in their annual receipts. There would have been no reference to Ireland, as the independence of the Irish Post Office was unaffected by the Act of Union. Had mention been made of the Money Order Office, it might have been described as "a private establishment carried on by private capital with the sanction of the Postmasters-General." Something would doubtless have been said about the Packet Service, and the report would, we may be sure, have been enlivened by some of those pleasantries with which, as Mr. Joyce tells us in his history, Lord Auckland, one of the Postmasters-General, was wont to beguile the tediousness of official work.

We need not inform our readers that they will look in vain for pleasantries in the latest report on the Post Office. Once it was usual to gild the pill of postal statistics by wonderful narrations of bees swarming in letter boxes, of the long, adventurous and round-about journeyings of ill-directed letters, or of the abnormal appetite of elephants for Savings Bank deposit books; but if we may venture upon a slight alteration of two well-known lines,

"The zealots of an iron time
Have deemed that harmless art a crime,"

and the present report, like its immediate predecessors, is full of unalloyed statistics, with only so much narrative as is necessary to make the figures comprehensible. Yet the figures, rightly understood, tell a marvellous story.

During the year ended the 31st March last it is estimated that 3,723,817,000 postal packets were delivered in the United Kingdom. These were made up as follows:—

Letters	...	...	...	...	2,323,600,000
Postcards	...	...	...	...	419,000,000
Book packets and circulars	...	...	...	...	732,400,000
Newspapers	...	...	...	...	167,800,000
Parcels (actual number)	...	...	...	...	81,017,000

The increase per cent. in the number of postal packets over the year ended 31st March, 1900, was 3.8, and letters have increased 23 per cent. since 1896-7, the year previous to the Jubilee reduction of postage. The growth of the Parcel Post has been even more remarkable, amounting to 27 per cent. since the reduction of postage in 1897. Every inhabitant of the United Kingdom now receives on the average nearly 91 postal packets in the year. This may be an excellent thing for the Post Office and for the revenue, but cynics may doubt whether it is of real advantage to the recipients of so much correspondence.

There was, we are glad to notice, a very large increase, 9.1 and 12.2 per cent. respectively, in the number of letters and parcels registered. There was also an increase of 11.7 per cent. in the number of express delivery service, which shows that the public are now realising the value and efficiency of this service. In 1891-2 there were only 108,583 express services in the United Kingdom; last year there were 804,447.

The undelivered postal packets were more numerous than ever; the chief increase was in book packets and circulars, which was doubtless due to the general election. As many as 345,690 packets were posted without an address, and they contained cash and paper money to the value of nearly £7,500. The number of articles found loose in the post was more than twice as many as four years ago. Property of the value of £680,000 was found in letters opened in the Returned Letter Office. The Postmaster-General is too polite to point the moral of these figures, but we shall not be going too far in saying that the British public seems to be growing careless. It would be interesting to be told in how many of these cases complaint was made to the department by those who were themselves to blame for the failures to deliver their correspondence.

Reference is made to the removal of the Inland and Newspaper Branches of the London General Post Office to the new and much more conveniently arranged buildings at what is called (*lucus a non*

lucendo) Mount Pleasant. The Postmaster-General admits that at first the service did not work quite smoothly, as indeed could scarcely have been expected, but we venture to hazard the statement that the inconvenience was not so great as some of the newspapers would have us believe. The most trivial complaints of postal irregularities seem to be eagerly welcomed by editors of newspapers, who forthwith produce a stereotyped article on Post Office blunders. We wonder if these able gentlemen ever remember of how great assistance the department is to them in their business, and how cheaply it works for them. We should greatly like to see an article setting forth exactly how and at what cost the Post Office helps the newspaper press, though we question whether the writer of such an article would be able to induce any newspaper editor to print it.

There are few important changes to note in any of the postal services. A paragraph of Lord Roberts's despatch in which he assigns proper credit to the Army Post Office in South Africa is quoted in the report, and the Postmaster-General mentions that Messrs. Greer and Treble have received the C.M.G. The health of the staff generally continues good and the average sick absence was rather less than in the previous year. Scarlet fever was prevalent and attacked 221 persons, but although there was in several towns an epidemic of smallpox, and many postmen and telegraph messengers must have been exposed to the infection, they happily escaped, doubtless because the department rightly enforces re-vaccination. There were 260 deaths among the male and 14 deaths among the female established officers during the year, exclusive of 69 deaths reported from South Africa; 484 men and 92 women retired on account of ill-health, and as a pleasant contrast to these melancholy statistics it is recorded that 189 women retired on marriage and that their average age was 27. But having regard to the number of women who hold established appointments we are reminded of the Apostle's question, "What are these among so many?"

The postal revenue of the year, including the value of services rendered to other departments, was £13,995,470, or £601,135 more than in the previous year, and about thirteen times as much as the revenue of a century ago. The expenditure was £10,064,903, or £380,904 more than in the previous year, and about twenty-seven times as much as the expenditure of a century ago. The net profit, £3,930,567, was the largest amount ever paid by the Post Office towards the national expenditure, and if we can conceive the Treasury as possessed of human feelings must have caused the

hearts of My Lords to rejoice greatly. It has often been said, and by those who are well qualified to speak, that the Treasury should be content with an annual payment of £3,000,000 from the Post Office, the balance of profit being applied to postal improvements. There is much wisdom in this view, but having regard to the pressing needs of the Chancellor of the Exchequer it must for the present at least be looked upon as a counsel of perfection.

There has been a very large increase in the money order and postal order business. The number of money orders issued was 13,263,567, representing £39,374,665; of postal orders 85,390,029, representing £29,881,726; or combining the two, we may say in round numbers that over £69,000,000 were remitted during the year in 98,000,000 separate transactions. The bankers of the United Kingdom sometimes complain that the Post Office interferes with their legitimate business. We wonder, when these complaints are made, if those who make them ever consider how they would provide for remitting money in small sums supposing money orders and postal orders could be swept out of existence. Could a banker arrange to remit 1s. 6d. from Cornwall to Caithness for a halfpenny, or £2 from Formosa to Dublin for sixpence? And even if he could, would he care to encumber his books with the entries of so many and such unprofitable transactions? The truth is that the banking facilities afforded by the Post Office for remitting or saving money are of real assistance to bankers by providing facilities for small transactions. and are, we believe, also of value to them in educating the public into the uses and objects of banking.

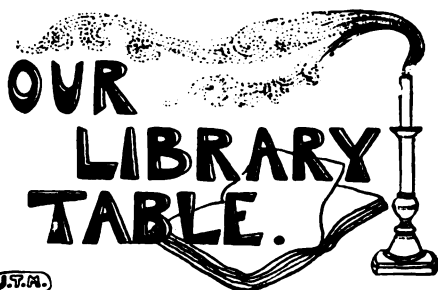
The Post Office Savings Bank is still progressing, though not apparently quite as rapidly as a few years ago. The cost of each transaction was further reduced during the past year, and there was a slight profit on the business. The number and amount of investments in Government Stock largely increased, doubtless owing to the fall in the price of consols. There was an increase in the number of immediate annuities bought, a slight decrease in the number of deferred annuities, and a more considerable falling off in the number of insurance contracts. This is not altogether surprising in view of the keen competition of insurance companies and of the somewhat inelastic regulations and methods of the Post Office.

The Telegraph Department may be not unfairly called the *enfant terrible* of the Post Office, and we trust the telephones will prove more profitable. The number of telegrams sent was 89,576,961, or nearly one per cent. less than in the previous year, but there was an

increase in the number of Press, Foreign, and Government telegrams. The local traffic in London fell off 2.1 per cent., and the Stock Exchange telegrams nearly 14 per cent. On the day before the funeral of the late Queen nearly 200,000 telegrams passed through the Central Telegraph Office, the highest number ever dealt with there in one day, and there was also great pressure at Cowes, Portsmouth, and Windsor. During the year 324 new telegraph offices were opened, and there were 32 extensions of the coast communication scheme. New wires have been laid between London and Benacre and London and Bacton to provide improved communication with Holland and Germany; direct telegraphic working has been established between London and Genoa; a new four-wire cable has been laid by the British Post Office between Benacre and Zandvoort (Holland), and by the German Administration between Bacton and Emden. The underground line between London and Birmingham is now at work, and it is proposed to extend it northwards and beyond Preston, where in a storm area the overhead wires are frequently injured. The Report contains several references to the laying of new foreign cables by telegraph companies, and of extensions projected or carried out by Colonial administrations.

The trunk telephone business has been extended to 13 offices, and the circuits consist of 76,381 miles of wire. Additional post office exchanges have been opened, and telephone licences have been granted to the municipal corporation of four towns. The greater part of the underground work for the London telephonic system has been accomplished so far as the City itself is concerned, but much remains to be done before all the proposed 40 exchanges in the London area can be opened. The telephone revenue for the year was £155,694, in addition to which the royalty paid by the National Telephone Company amounted to £140,448.

The total telegraph receipts for the year are estimated at £3,459,353, the total expenditure at £3,812,569, and the deficit at £353,216, in addition to which the interest on the stock created to buy the telegraphs is £298,888. These are unsatisfactory figures, but it must be remembered that in many countries the telegraphs are as unremunerative as in the United Kingdom, and that the public cannot have cheap telegrams and great facilities for sending them without paying the cost. Those who use the telegraphs have succeeded in throwing about a sixth of the cost on to the broad shoulders of the taxpayer.



[We draw no hard and fast line as to the kind of books we notice, but, of course, we give the preference to those written by Civil Servants.]

SURREY. By Walter Jerrold, with special articles on the Bird Life, Flowers, Entomology, Geology, Cycling, &c., of the County, with illustrations by J. A. Symington. London: J. M. Dent & Co., Aldine House, Bedford Street, W.C.

IN these days of dainty editions the much traduced "Guide Book" is in a fair way to join the aristocracy in the world of letters. Many volumes, popularly regarded as guide books, which have been published in recent years, may be entitled to rank as literature, while in the world of art they take an even higher rank than in the world of literature, because of the excellent illustrations which accompany the letter-press. In the volume before us the illustrations are the first things which take our fancy. Mr. Symington has an eye for new points of view in a much sketched county, and the series of delicate little pictures of familiar spots come to us with a certain freshness due to the soul breathed into them by the artist. We all know pictures of Hindhead, and of the Gibbet Hill Monument: Mr. Symington gives us Hindhead as seen from Hambledon, and the Hill from that point, as all Surrey and Hampshire travellers know, has the appearance of a mountain. We like, too, Leith Hill; here, too, the great height of the hill is suggested by the artist; he seizes the point where he can do his best for the 965 feet he has to suggest, and for the beauty of the hill itself. Sweet little corners of Surrey villages and quaint bits of domestic and ecclesiastical architecture are among Mr. Symington's happiest efforts, while the maps provided in the volume are as useful to the pedestrian as they are to the cyclist.

Of the letter-press it is difficult to say anything but praise. We know our Surrey as well, if not better than most Londoners, and we are not likely to be bored when we read upwards of 300 pages in her praise, even if the praise be not very literary. In this instance, however, there is a distinct literary flavour about the whole work, and a freshness and restraint which make the book readable for its own sake. So many Londoners bewail their fate at being imprisoned in a close and crowded city, and when they get a holiday they rush off to other crowded places such as Margate, Brighton, or Hastings, and as they go through the beautiful counties of Kent and Surrey on their way to these places they scarcely realise that they are missing the very districts which suit best their complaint. A day on Box Hill is far better for mind and body than a promenade along the sea front at Brighton. A walk across country from Esher to Leatherhead or Epsom will inspire you and stimulate your faculties better than a week on a sea beach, throwing stones into the sea or listening to a band. But we preach in vain a very old sermon. The book before us has happily nothing of the pulpit about it, and while it will delight Surrey enthusiasts, it will also explain our enthusiasm to those who are still strangers to the beautiful country lying immediately around London. As to the printing and binding of the volume, we can only say that Messrs. Dent are the publishers, and those who know the quality of their work expect great things. And they are seldom disappointed.

THE POSTMAN'S "ENQUIRE WITHIN" SERIES. For sale to Post Office officials only. No. I.—Official Regulations and other particulars regarding the Limited Competition for the position of Sorter in London, and Sorting Clerk and Telegraphist in certain Provincial offices. Prepared and published by the Editor of the *Postman's Gazette*. Price 3½d., post free. Printed by A. R. Goldie, 28, Buchan Street, Glasgow.

If we may judge by No. I., this is an admirably conceived enterprise. We all know what an enterprising body of men the postmen are, and how much of the spirit which animates them is due to the efforts made on their behalf by their own leaders, who though no doubt injudicious and unreasonable at times, have none the less exercised their great influence with discretion and marked ability. Here, for instance, is the way indicated for an intelligent postman to rise in the service, and nothing can be more useful than to bring before the notice of the men the opportunities open to them in the

way of limited competitions for posts in the higher branches of the service. Possibly in time these limited competitions will be extended ; at any rate the popularisation of those already in existence will help to create the demand for such extension. No. II. of the series will be Good Conduct Stripes, all about their Award, Forfeiture, and Recovery. No. III.—Pensions and Compassionate Allowances. No. IV.—Wages, Increments, Overtime, Sunday and Bank Holiday Payments. No. V.—The various avenues open to Postmen.

Who would not be a postman with a leader like Mr. Brown to show the way to make the most of our conditions ?



This letter card was delivered to the rightful owner in due course of post by an auxiliary postman employed at Bridlington for the summer season only. His slimness can perhaps be accounted for by the fact that he is a thoroughbred "Yorkshire-bite." It appears that when on his round some distance from any "Terrace opposite bathing machines" he happened to see his man walking along the street, and although a delivery in the street constitutes a breach of the official ball and chain rules, the postman, eager to effect delivery, risked severe punishment by button-holing the original of the photograph and delivering the letter card there and then.

St. Martin's Letter-Bag.

Ourselfs.

WE are again at the end of another volume, and, owing to the special conditions under which we exist, we have again to appeal to our friends to continue their support, and as far as lies in their power to extend our circulation. The first object can be most readily attained by filling up at once the form which accompanies this issue and forwarding it to us with their subscription. If they subscribe through one of our agents then they will, of course, communicate with him. In a few weeks time we require to know the support we shall receive during the coming year. We have no doubt of the wish of Post Office servants generally to see us continue our career, but a small matter such as renewing one's subscription is so easily forgotten, and hence our usual October reminder.

It is our twelfth volume, our twelfth year of existence, that we hope to begin in January next, and we think we may fairly congratulate ourselves on our respectable age. During those twelve years we have been able to provide what we venture to believe will prove to be a permanent record of Post Office work and history during that time. What would not some of our historians of the Service have given for such a record, if it had existed, say from 1840 to 1870! What value will not future historians place on our little volumes! And not forgetting this aspect of our work, we have always endeavoured to make the Magazine lively and interesting to the ordinary man and woman. We are prepared to continue our labour with enthusiasm, and with an unlimited amount of belief in its usefulness; and it now remains with our friends to give us substantial tokens of their confidence in us.

A Departmental Aid to Thrift.

UNDER the above title (writes Mr. H. A. Miles, of the Engineer-in-Chief's office) your contributor, A.T.M., offers a suggestion similar to one put forward by me in March, 1894, whilst I was attached to the C.T.O. It was approved by Sir H. C. (then Mr.) Fischer, considered and wet-blanketed by the Savings Bank authorities, and ultimately sentenced to death by the Secretary (Regd. papers 126,370 TS/94). I am glad to see that someone else has faith in the scheme, and as opinions or conditions may have changed with the lapse of time, I give a few extracts from the original papers:—

“ . . . the Receiver and Accountant-General is authorised to deduct monthly or quarterly instalments from the salaries of the officials for the payment of railway season tickets, life insurance, benevolent funds, etc. . . .

"As the money thus deducted never passes through their hands, the officers soon cease to look upon it as a part of their income, and thus do not miss it.

"If the Secretary would give authority for this principle to be applied to the Savings Bank, and allow any desired sum to be deducted at stated intervals and placed to the credit of the depositor in the Bank, I firmly believe that a large increase in the deposits would at once be observed, and that in the majority of cases the money once invested would be allowed to remain.

"Among other advantages is the blow which would be struck at the money clubs, holiday clubs, etc., which lend themselves so easily to fraud . . . whilst the encouragement of a provision for illness or misfortune could not but be beneficial alike to the staff and the higher officials in the fewer 'benefit' cases which would arise calling for pecuniary help."

The chief objection raised by the Receiver and Accountant-General and the Savings Bank authorities was that they considered it essential to obtain the depositor's book on the occasion of every deposit, and the opinion was expressed that the numerous existing facilities for thrift did not justify further efforts.

I fail entirely to see the need for the production of the book every time a deposit is made, seeing that the S.B. and A.G.D. would both have records thereof, and that the depositor would receive the usual printed acknowledgment by post. The book need only be made up at convenient intervals—say quarterly. The four months' correspondence centred itself entirely on the expense and difficulties which might be incurred by the Department, rather than on the benefits which would accrue to the depositors.

The fact that the thrifty are so frequently called upon to help the thriftless is proof that the existing facilities are insufficient, or that advantage is not taken of them. As originally urged:—"The main point . . . is that the money, never being in the possession of the owner, is certain to be banked, and likely to remain; whereas a temporary pecuniary difficulty would frequently prevent the periodical deposit being made if this had to be done voluntarily under existing facilities." The objection I see to the suggestion in A.T.M.'s last sentence is that if the accumulated instalments were placed to the depositor's account annually only, a proportionate amount of interest would be lost, and the money would not meanwhile be available for withdrawal should necessity arise.

I still hope to see something done in the direction indicated, and think if the staff at the different offices expressed a desire for the scheme to have a trial, an effort might perhaps be made to overcome the objections which, at the time, were considered insurmountable.

At Last!

AT length the good people of Dundee have discovered that a very great man was born in their midst a hundred years ago or more. This was James Bowman Lindsay, weaver, scholar, scientist, and prophet, who had the electric light burning in his class-

room nearly seventy years ago, who was the first to telegraph without wires, and who predicted that one day electricity would be used to drive all kinds of machinery, and to light our houses and our streets. So long ago as 1859 he read a paper before the British Association at Aberdeen on "Telegraphing Without Wires," illustrating his method by experiments at the Aberdeen docks, and he also demonstrated his system by similar experiments at the Portsmouth docks; and yet we never hear his name mentioned in connection with the things which he discovered and demonstrated more than half a century ago, and which have been "invented" quite recently, if we are to believe what the newspapers, scientific and otherwise, tell us. It is all very well for people to say that Lindsay was born before his time; but there must have been a "conspiracy of silence" to keep his name and exploits from the public; and unfortunately he was, like all true geniuses, modest and never dreamt of the ways of your modern scientist, whose gospel seems to be summed up in the saying, "Sweet are the uses of advertisement."

It was left for Sir John Leng, the proprietor of the *Dundee Advertiser*, and an Englishman by the way, to do justice to Lindsay's memory by organising a memorial to be erected over his grave in the Western Cemetery, Dundee. This memorial was unveiled a week or two ago by Sir W. H. Preece, who was supported on the occasion by his old pupil, Sir James Sivewright, at one time a telegraph man and a member of "Ours." Sir William, in eulogising Lindsay's life and work, said that there was nothing in scripture so marvellous, so close and well-defined, as the prophecy uttered by Lindsay sixty years ago relative to the progress and development of science; and that there was no name that would shine in science more perhaps than that of James Bowman Lindsay, when the true facts which had been brought out that day were more widely promulgated. Sir James Sivewright, as a "brither Scot," said that anything grander or more touching than Lindsay's life it was impossible to conceive, and that all Scotsmen had reason to be proud of and to perpetuate his memory; while Sir John Leng made it abundantly clear that the honour of the always difficult "first step" must be accorded to Lindsay in the matter of telegraphing without wires. All this is excellent, most excellent, but it should have been spoken long ago. My conscience, however, is clear, as I called attention to Lindsay and his work in these pages several years ago.

R. W. J.

The Birthday of the Post Office Savings Bank.

THE birthday of the Post Office Savings Bank is the 16th September, and on the day following the *Daily News* published an interesting article on the growth of the institution. After relating the history of the bank, and the various modifications and reforms which have been adopted since 1861, giving facts which are familiar to all our readers, the article concludes thus:—

"The Post Office Savings Bank began in a very modest way.

On the 16th September, 1861, 300 post offices were opened for Savings Bank business, and 435 deposits amounting to £951 were received. On the 31st December last Savings Bank business was transacted at 13,341 post offices, and on that day 124,469 deposits were made, amounting to £458,115. In 1861 the work of the central office was carried on by about 30 persons in two rooms of the old General Post Office. At the present time more than 2,000 men, women and boys are employed at the Central Offices in Queen Victoria Street and Addle Hill, whence in a year or two the business will be removed to more convenient and more spacious premises now being built at West Kensington.

"According to the last balance sheet of the Post Office Savings Bank the liabilities to depositors exceed the assets by £2,040,594. This is not a quite satisfactory state of things, but need not cause the slightest alarm to depositors, as the deficiency must by law be made good, if necessary, out of the Consolidated Fund. Had the Post Office Savings Bank been allowed to retain the profits it has earned, which since 1877 have been paid into the Exchequer, the deficiency would never have arisen, and even now when Consols are again at or above par it will disappear. In 1903, however, when the interest on Consols will be reduced to $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., it will be necessary to reduce the interest paid to depositors, or to invest the deposits in other than Government securities. An attempt was made last year by Sir Michael Hicks-Beach to deal with the question of the interest allowed to depositors by empowering the Treasury to vary the rate from year to year according to the profit earned. But the proposal was withdrawn in the face of the very serious opposition it encountered; and it was generally felt that a variable rate of interest was open to many objections. One advantage of the present rate, two-and-a-half per cent. per annum, is its simplicity, seeing that it is a halfpenny a month on every pound deposited. In 1903 it may be necessary to reduce the interest to two per cent., a rate which would permit of the funds of the Bank being still invested in Government stock, allow an ample margin for working expenses, and yield a fair surplus. The working expenses of the Bank have been reduced from 9s. 7d. per cent. in 1891 to 7s. $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. per cent. in 1900, and the cost of each transaction from 6 $\frac{1}{10}$ d. in the former to 5 $\frac{1}{10}$ d. in the latter year. Before the Post Office Savings Bank was established it was estimated that each transaction would cost 7d. Mr. Gladstone accepted the estimate without guaranteeing its accuracy, and although it has been occasionally exceeded in the course of forty years, wisdom has in this instance been justified of her children.

"Savings banks were established in Germany and in other countries years before they were begun in Great Britain, but Post Office Savings Banks are of English origin, and following the example of the Mother Country, have been successfully carried on in many of our Colonies. Foreign nations, too, have in this

instance taken a lesson from England, and have established Post Office Savings Bank on our English model."

[In the *Daily News* there appeared a very obvious misprint in the figures showing the average cost of each transaction, which we have corrected.]

The Possibilities of the Mono-Rail.

THE RAILWAY MAGAZINE is a vigorous monthly publication which occasionally publishes articles of great interest to Post Office servants. In the August issue there is a short note on Mono-Rail Railways, and the estimate arrived at as regards the accelerated speed which is attained on these lines is sufficiently alarming to all who look upon the limited mail train of our great railways as the acme of fast travelling. After stating that "Should Parliament sanction the Behr (so-called) mono-rail electric railway between Liverpool and Manchester, there is sure to be a great deal of discussion as to the advantages and disadvantages both of the project and the system whilst under construction," the author of the note goes on to point out that "already suggestions for mono-rail railways all over the kingdom are being discussed by those interested in the system, and the following table has been prepared showing the time it would take by such lines to reach various places:—

	Miles.	At 120 miles		At 150 miles	
		an hour.		an hour.	
		hrs.	min.	hrs.	min.
London to Brighton ...	50	0	25	0	20
„ „ Birmingham ...	113	0	57	0	45
„ „ Liverpool ...	202	1	40	1	20
„ „ Leeds ...	188	1	34	1	15
„ „ Edinburgh ...	400	3	20	2	40
„ „ Aberdeen ...	540	4	30	3	36
„ „ Paris ...	288	2	24	*1	55
„ „ „ ...	288	3	40	†3	5

* Providing the Channel Tunnel was constructed, and the train ran through without a stop.

† Train to Dover, steamer to Calais, train Calais to Paris, allowing 1 hour 28 minutes for embarking, sea passage, and disembarking.

If such speeds are ever permitted the revolution in our means of communication would be as great as that produced by the substitution of the steam engine for the mail coach.

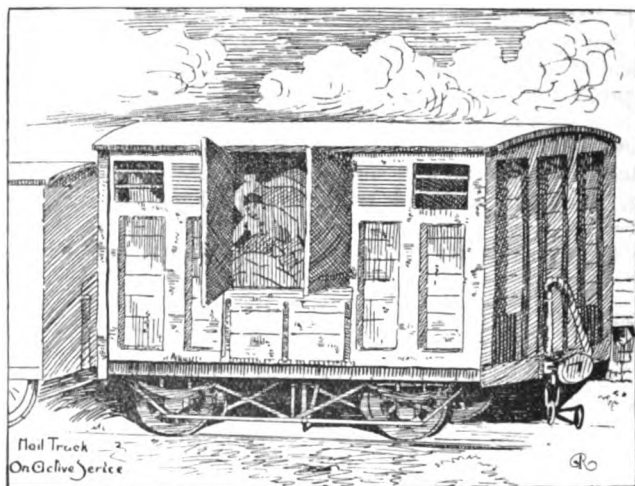
A Visit to Roodewal.

WE are indebted to Corporal F. Rutherford, of the Army Post Office Corps, Kroonstad, for the following letterpress and illustrations:—

For a solid week the rains had poured their torrents from the heavens, battering the ground into soft mud. Everything under the sky reeked with water; soldiers stood around their sodden tents wondering if ever again their clothes and blankets would become

dry; horses, mules, and oxen, splashed up to their knees in mud, looked as much depressed and downcast by the weather as their masters were. Our office floor had a layer of mud, and every caller added a portion of the veldt as he dodged in from the rain.

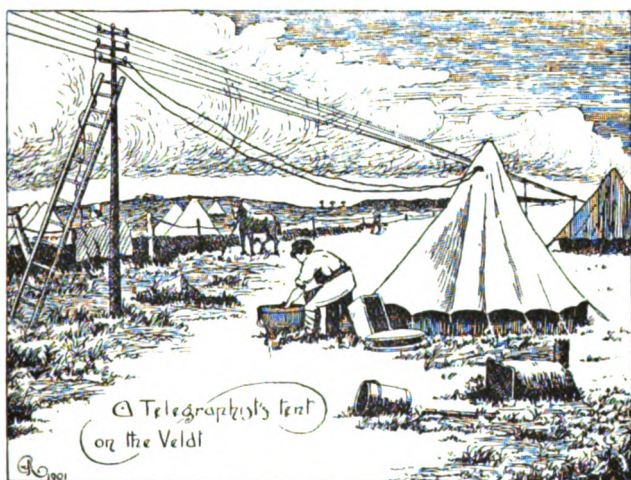
The rain was still flooding the earth when I received orders to go with mails to Roodewal, the scene of destruction of some two thousand mail bags. The train by which I was to travel, although it has but one truck for mails in the rear of the passengers' saloons, is called by us, from force of habit, "the mail train." I could hear it puffing and straining up the steep declivity. Presently with two or three painful snorts the engine got its load to the station platform. From a truck in the rear bags were thrown out on to the platform, where they were surrounded by soldiers of various regiments, who



eagerly read the labels in hope of seeing one bearing their particular regimental address. After the bags for Kroonstad had been disposed of, and those for north put into the truck, I also got in, taking with me blankets, rifle, and the usual "bully beef" and "biscuits," and made myself as comfortable as the pile of bags would permit for a journey of forty miles. Giving a warning whistle the train restarted, being assisted up the incline out of the station by an engine at the rear. The railway line from Cape Town through the Orange River Colony is a single track, which twists around kopjes, and makes apparently needless deviations to right and left throughout its whole length.

After two hours steaming and many stoppages at sidings the train reached Roodewal. When I left that place just twelvemonths ago, all the tin sheds were wrecked by Boer shell fire. Since then new ones have taken their place; and I could barely realize the picture

of last year, when those ill-fated mail bags were cut open by the Boers and their contents rifled. Having to stay at Roodewal that night, I made for a camp two miles away on the veldt, the rain still pelting down and forming shallow lakes through which it was necessary to wade. At last I reached the camp. I knew that somewhere in the camp was one of the telegraph battalion of the Post Office Corps, but just where he was I had to find out. This proved to be a very simple job, for a glance along the telegraph wires discovered a wire going from one of the poles into a tent. From this issued a peculiar humming and buzzing sound, like the preliminary burr from a phonograph before the tune begins. All this was evidence that in the tent worked the telegraphist. I was soon chatting with him, having to speak pretty loudly to be heard



above the noise of the instrument, called, I believe, "a buzzer." Not much time does a telegraph clerk on the veldt get for recreation. His tent is full of "ticking," and even when he hopes that, with his day's work finished, he can have a good sleep, he has frequently to turn out during the night with ready carbine to take a place in the trenches should an attack be imminent. We had to carry on our conversation in snatches, as his attention was needed on the "buzzer." Thus: "How are you?" (Hum-m-m, bur-r-r-r. No answer for a minute.) "All right." (Bur r-r-r, hum-m-m.) "Got much to do?" (Bur-r-r.) "Yes" (hum-m-m-m), "bags of it" (bur-r-r-r), "'nough for three" (hum-m-m, bur-r-r) "blessed men" (hum-m-m-m-m). "Wish could get" (bur-r-r, tick, tick, tick) "out of this" (tick, tick, tick, hum-m-m) "God-forsaken hole." So our talk went on for an hour or two, when "lights out" sounded, and we turned in. The following morning, after having a look round at the curious defences of the camp, I returned to Kroonstad.

An Epitaph.

[The following was found in a waste-paper-basket on the second floor of the General Post Office North. The Latinity is doubtful; and the notes appear to be even more obscure than the text.]

*Evertère domos totas optantibus ipsis
Di faciles. (Juvenal.)*

IN MEMORIAM

(1) RAMI OLIM CELEBERRIMI,
FAMÂ ET INFAMIÂ
BONIS SIMUL AC MALIS
PER ANGLIAM NOTI,
C. E. B.

QUI

(SUB REGE PHILIPPO)

(2) DE DIE PER DIEM

GLORIÂ NUMMISQ:

AC

LITERIS HAUD HUMANIORIBUS SED (UT AIUNT) "TESTIBUS" (3)
NEC NON ET

MULTITUDINE SERVORUM CREVIT.

(4) TRADUCTORIBUS OPES, TRADITORIBUS EXITIUM
AEQUÂ MANU AFFERENS:

HEU! PAUCIS FLEBILIS,

ANNOS NATUS SEDECIM, FELICITER OBIIT, IDIB: AUGUST: MDCCCCI.

A PORTIS INFERI ERUE DNE ANIMAM EJUS.

R.I.P.

NOTES. (1) *Rami*. Anglicè "Branch."

(2) *Varia lectio* "De die in diem." *Non male Hunterius*: "Locutio is'ta
"per diem" *aes officiale olet*.

(3) *Litere* "testes": i.e., "test letters." *Latinum caninum sapit*.
(*Heinsius*.)

(4) *Vulgo* "interpretibus." *Hujusmodi interpretes non sine magnâ
mercede laborabant*. c.f., *Italianum istud*: "Traditore,
traduttore."

Spoilt in the Making.

THE following paragraph appeared in *The Athenæum* of the
14th August:—

"The agreement is now cancelled by which Mr. Henniker Heaton, M.P., was to write and Mr. Grant Richards was to publish a book on the Post Office. Mr. Heaton's MS. has grown under his hand into an exhaustive history far exceeding the limits of the volume originally designed."

A letter from Messrs. Bicknell & Wrigley is published in the issue of the same paper of the 14th September, giving the publisher's view of the matter:—

"May we, as Mr. Grant Richards's solicitors, point out how

entirely wrong an impression your recent paragraph about Mr. Henniker Heaton's proposed work on the Post Offices of all Nations must give to your readers? The facts are far different. Our client paid Mr. Henniker Heaton a considerable sum in advance on account of the book three years ago, and it was to have been published in the early part of 1899. Mr. Henniker Heaton, however, obtained an extension of time from our client, and delivered the MS. on April 1st, 1900; but then the MS. was in such a state that our client, after taking literary advice, had to refuse to accept it as the book for which he had contracted."

An Abandoned Enquiry.

"J. A. J. H." writes to us as follows: "The many questions addressed to Mr. James of Carlisle, as recorded in *St. Martin's-le-Grand*, reminds me of similar enquiries addressed, many years ago, by impertinent Americans, to an old Dorsetshire clergyman about their English namesakes. My old friend received an enquiry from an American named Channing, a relative of the famous Dr. Channing, asking if he, the old parson, knew anything of the Dorsetshire Channings, from whom the American thought he was descended. The parson in reply wrote as follows: 'The Channings formerly lived in Dorchester and were well known there. The most famous person of that name was Mary Channing, who was executed in — for the brutal murder of her husband. The execution was witnessed by 10,000 people, and is described on page — vol. — of *The Gentleman's Magazine*. I believe Mary Channing was the last of the family, as since her execution the name has not been known here.' Mr. Channing, the American inquirer, did not pursue his investigations; at least my friend heard no more of him."

Physician, heal thyself!

THE following letter was recently received at the Head Office, and we have seldom seen a case in which the accuser comes into court with dirtier hands. "Enclosed please find wrongly addressed envelope, which was sent after I had given my corrected address to you. Such careless mistakes are deeply to be regretted and I trust that they will not occur in future.

"Is there in the Dead Letter Office a post card addressed to Mr. J. Smith, 35, R— Villas? If so, please return it to me as I put the wrong address on it. It was posted about three weeks ago."

Stanzas for the Silly Season.

O THOU of many heads and Argus eyes,
 Whose myriad pen provides our daily bread,
 Incline thine ear, for we would celebrate,
 In verse heroic, as beseems our theme,
 A darling idiosyncrasy of thine.

A time there is in every circling year
 When thy resounding voice doth loudly call
 The spheres to witness our iniquities ;
 Nor calls in vain, for then the Thunderer,
 Ev'n the majestic and reverberant *Times*,
 And other prints of lesser fame and price,
Express indignantly thy *Post*-al griefs,
 And *Chronicle* thy *Telegraph*-ic woes.

When all our legislators, worn with toil
 And long-continued volubility,
 Flee from St. Stephens unto moor and spa,
 They leave behind a partial vacuum,
 Abhorrent unto journalistic souls.

Then once again the serpent of the sea,
 Churning with frenzied wrath the heaving main,
 Transfixes with his phosphorescent eye
 The unprevaricating mariner ;
 And strange communications flit from Mars
 Athwart the interplanetary space,
 And vegetables of Gargantuan growth
 Amaze the suburbs and the provinces.

'Tis then thou plyest fast thy mordant quill,
 Recounting all our legion shortcomings.
 Again thou see'st the contumelious fair
 Who sold thee stamps but seven short weeks ago
 With leisurely and condescending mien ;
 The sins of the vagarious telephone
 Invade thy memory multitudinously ;
 And on the wire-borne lightning's tardiness
 Thou brood'st with heavy soul.

Nor fearest thou thy lurid narrative,
 Thickly bestrewn with corruscating verbs
 And spangled with percussive adjectives,
 Shall lack its meed of sweet publicity.
 The time is kindly ; editorial smiles
 Irradiate thy plaint, and scarce a word
 Doth fall within the azure pencil's ban.

With what comportment do our Chieftest Ones
 Abide the 'whelming brunt of thy assault ?
 Perchance thy vengeance-laden epithets
 Bedim the radiance of a lordly eye,
 And chase the colour from a knightly cheek,
 And freeze incontinent the ruddy tide
 Within Assistant Secretaries' veins.
 Perchance 'tis thus, O thou of many heads,
 Perchance 'tis thus—perchance 'tis otherwise.

W. HENDERSON.

S. O.

In Defence of a Subordinate.

IN these days we often hear officials complain that the heads of department are too ready to listen to charges against their subordinates, and that even when the charges are proved to be groundless, they do not exert themselves to defend the actions of the officers concerned. Here is a letter written in 1824 by the Secretary of the Post Office, the boldness and directness of which is not often found in letters of a similar nature now written from St. Martin's-le-Grand:—

General Post Office,
London, E.C.,
5 July, 1824.

Sir,—The Postmaster of North Shields having informed you that he had marked your letter as post paid, he discharged his duty—and your requiring to see the mark was in fact doubting his word, and insinuating that he might commit a fraud—he therefore refused to comply with your desire.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
F. FREELING,
Secretary.

The late Mr. A. Askins.

WE regret to record the death, which occurred on the 15th June, after a short but painful illness, of Mr. Alfred Askins, an Assistant Controller of the Central Telegraph Office. Mr. Askins commenced his official career in the Electric Telegraph



MR. A. ASKINS.

Company as far back as 1857, and was transferred to the G.P.O. on the 29th January, 1870, when the telegraphs were acquired by the State. By his affability, geniality, and kindness of heart, Mr. Askins gained the respect and affection alike of his colleagues and subordinates, and his loss is deeply felt and deplored by all.

Mr. B. Colbron.

ON the 4th of July last Mr. Benjamin Colbron, Postmaster of Croydon, retired under the age limit after spending close upon 49 years in the service. He began his official career in 1852 as assistant in the Worthing office. In 1856 he entered the Brighton office as clerk, and in 1860 was appointed as one of



MR. B. COLBRON.

the old corps of surveyors' stationary clerks. It is pleasing and interesting to record that his chief, at that time, Mr. Newman, is still living and, although over 90 years of age, is in the enjoyment of good health. Mr. Colbron subsequently filled the offices of Postmaster of Staplehurst, Swindon, Kingston-on-Thames, and Croydon. He carries with him into his retirement the respect and good wishes of all who have had the pleasure of knowing him.

Mr. Charles A. Burge.

THE engineering officials of the Post Office assembled in considerable force at the district headquarters, Aldboro House, Dublin, on the afternoon of the 27th July last, in order to do honour to Mr. Charles A. Burge, M.I.E.E., the acting superintending engineer of the Midland District, on the occasion of his promotion to the position of superintending engineer of the North Wales District, with headquarters at Liverpool. Mr. Burge's responsibilities in his new sphere of work include the whole of the main telegraph and telephone lines and offices in North Wales and in Liverpool, Chester, Shrewsbury, Warrington and other important centres, together with the Isle of Man. The G.P.O. at Liverpool, which is newly built, has an extensive electric lighting and pneumatic plant and a large trunk telephone exchange system.

Mr. Burge's colleagues in Dublin took advantage of the occasion of his near departure from amongst them to offer him some mark of the esteem in which he was held, and a most representative gathering

of about fifty officers of all ranks assembled for the purpose. The presents consisted of a 14-day black marble and bronze clock, aneroid, and thermometer, and a pair of bronze ornaments to match, together with a solid silver tea set and spoons in a case. The presentation was made on behalf of the company by Mr. Kinsey, who was supported by Messrs. Henriques, Black, and Brazier in feeling speeches. After Mr. Burge's reply, and hearty cheers had been given, the company were grouped in front of Aldboro' House and several photographs were taken as a memento of a memorable occasion.

A Telegraph Veteran.

MR. RICHARD SPELMAN CULLEY, who died last month at Weston-super-Mare, at the great age of 83, was probably the last remaining link between the very early telegraph days and the present time. He had been pensioned for nearly a quarter of a century, and his name must have dropped out of the recollection of all but a very few present-day telegraph men. He was, nevertheless, a man of considerable note in his day, and deserves to be remembered as the first Engineer-in-Chief of the Post Office telegraph system. Mr. Culley was born at Norwich in 1818, and after spending a short time in the service of the Midland Railway Company, and with Messrs. Cooke and Wheatstone, the co-inventors of the first electric telegraph, he entered the service of the late Electric Telegraph Company in 1846, the year in which the Company was incorporated. He was first employed at Manchester under District Superintendent Barchard, whose name may be in the recollection of one or two men still remaining in the service, or who have retired recently, as it is in that of the writer. He was then transferred to the Scottish District, with head-quarters at Edinburgh, in succession to Mr. Robert Rule, who shared the superintendence of the district with Mr. R. W. Davidson. This would be about 1856, and a few years later he was transferred to the Western District of England, with head-quarters at Bristol. In or about 1865 he was further transferred to London as engineer of the Company in succession to Cromwell Fleetwood Varley, certainly the ablest electrician of his time; and in 1870, when the telegraphs were transferred to the State, he became Engineer-in-Chief to the Post Office, and a most valuable coadjutor of Mr. Scudamore in his re-organisation of the system. He was always a delicate man, and he was compelled through ill-health to retire from his great office in 1878, when he was succeeded by Mr. Edward Graves, who, however, pre-deceased him by several years.

Mr. Culley was not exactly a scientist, but he was a most able practical electrician; and his *Handbook of Practical Telegraphy*, which has passed through many editions, and been translated into several languages, is worth a bushel of merely scientific treatises on the subject. He took a great interest in the development and improvement of the Wheatstone fast-speed apparatus, and, with the assistance of Mr. David Lumsden, who followed him from Edinburgh

to Bristol, and from Bristol to London, he introduced many improvements in the system, which met with practical recognition at the hands of the distinguished inventor. He was a very reserved, retiring sort of man, which might have given the impression that he was not a vigorous administrator. But he had a mind of his own, and a very terse and emphatic way of expressing it; and he was always perfectly honest and sincere in everything he either said or did. He was inflexibly just in his dealings with his staff, although there may have been some who thought that he might have been a trifle more generous. But he had peculiar notions on this subject, and I shall always remember how, on making an appeal to him, soon after the transfer, on behalf of an old colleague of his and mine who had come to grief in some way or other, he made the characteristic reply: "We may be as generous as we please with our own, but we have no business to be generous at the expense of the department." That was a reply which would have commended itself to his successor, if he had known it, although I did not altogether relish the force of it at a time when the department was on its beam ends for want of experienced assistance of every kind. He was perhaps the least effusive of human beings, and I remember, too, when Mr. Scudamore called his attention to the success of one of my lectures on Telegraphy, he replied in the driest manner possible: "I have always found that a good lecture on the Telegraph will command an appreciative audience." And he was frugal to a fault. My old friend Henry Eaton has told me how he and Mr. Culley would spend a whole day inspecting the wires in that dreary upland country between Carstairs and Carlisle on a biscuit and a glass of ale. But there were no fat "per diems" in those days, and the Company expected a good deal for its money in the early "fifties"! In spite of those little peculiarities, Mr. Culley was a man of sterling worth, and it was something to have succeeded such a man as Cromwell Varley, and to have taken such an important part in the transfer of the telegraphs as he did.

I have an impression that Mr. Hookey, the present Engineer-in-Chief, was associated with Mr. Culley in his West of England days. Anyhow, he was associated with him in London before the transfer, and it was fitting that he should be present at his funeral at Weston a week or two ago. The name of Culley still occupies an honourable position in the official records; Mr. W. R. Culley, a son of the subject of this notice, having succeeded Mr. David Lumsden as submarine superintendent at Woolwich a few years ago.

Mr. Culley retained his interest in affairs till the end. He was a voracious reader in almost every subject; a most accomplished musician, playing an organ which he had set up in his own house; and an enthusiastic gardener. There is always hope of a man when he takes to gardening, and especially to rose-growing! He was a member of several scientific and learned societies, notably the Institution of Civil Engineers, the Society of Telegraph Engineers, and the Royal Society of Edinburgh; and he received the Telford

medal from the first-mentioned of these for his researches on pneumatic transmissions disclosed in a paper he read before that Society.

R. W. J.

Mr. Isaac Naylor.

A WELL-KNOWN figure of the London Postal Service has been lost to the official world in the person of Mr. Isaac Naylor, who retired on the 31st July last from the Postmastership of the Western Central District. Mr. Naylor did not remain to finish



MR. I. NAYLOR.

the allotted span of official life. He took too keen an interest in his duties to be content to do them otherwise than thoroughly, and when failing health made this a severe trial, he wisely came to the conclusion that his race was run, and that he could with equal justice to himself and the Department seek that rest which he had well earned. His final decision came as a surprise to his staff, for though it had been recognised as a possible contingency, yet it was thought that the associations gathered in an official career of thirty-six years would be too strong to be severed until the guillotine of the age regulations fell with its disregard of persons and careers. What made Mr. Naylor's voluntary retirement seem impossible was the fact that he looked young and vigorous for his age, but appearances are not always reliable, and they were not so in this case. To his intimate staff he spoke of troubles from insomnia—that certain indication of labour beyond the strength to perform it; and when his holidays failed to remove this he wisely decided to write "Finis" to his official work.

Mr. Naylor was appointed clerk in the Circulation Department on the 11th March, 1865, and there he made friends who are now scattered throughout the Service. In August, 1867, he forsook the early and late duties of the Registered Letter Branch for the more congenial, even if more onerous, duties of a district clerkship. He served at the Northern District until his appointment as assistant

superintendent at Paddington in 1881. Three years later he was made chief clerk, and in that capacity he also served in the N.W. District. In May, 1890, he was promoted Postmaster of Wandsworth (now Battersea) District, and on the 25th March, 1895, he was promoted to the Western Central District.

Mr. Naylor was a good raconteur, and in the intervals of duty was never tired of drawing upon his reminiscences of the old R.L.B. days. He took a keen interest in the messengers, both in their institute and in their drill, regularly attending their monthly parade in the grounds of the Foundling Hospital. He was educated at Carlisle Grammar School, and was a contemporary there of Dr. Creighton, late Bishop of London.

It is not given to every chief to gain the esteem and even affection with which Mr. Naylor was regarded by his personal staff. His thorough knowledge of all the details of the work made them respect him as an official, and his keen sense of justice, tempered with mercy, secured their esteem for the man. That he may live long to enjoy his retirement is the earnest wish of all who knew him. —C. A. W.

The late Mr. J. F. Moore.

THE announcement of the sudden death, on the 23rd August last, of John Francis Moore, chief clerk at the Manchester Post Office, created a painful sensation at the head office in Spring



MR. J. F. MOORE.

Gardens, Manchester, where the serious nature of his illness was quite unsuspected.

Mr. Moore was in every respect a self-made man. He entered the Post Office in 1869 as a junior letter sorter; but his promotion was speedy, and in 1883, when the Post Office undertook the

collection and delivery of parcels, he was appointed to organize the Manchester arrangements. In 1891 he was made superintendent; the following year he became chief superintendent; and in 1898 he was promoted to be chief clerk. During the late Mr. Harley's protracted illness Mr. Moore had the whole of the administrative responsibility upon his shoulders, and he discharged it to the satisfaction of everybody. The value of his work was enhanced as a result of the serious fire in September last year, when in meeting the extraordinary situation which arose, he took a large share.

Mr. Moore's sympathetic nature won for him many friends. He was a typical genial Irishman, a hard worker, and a remarkable man for organization.

Mr. John Mackenzie.

ON the day that I first entered the service of the Post Office it was my good fortune to sit at the same table with a man who, even at that distant date, appeared to me to be old and venerable. From that date until the hour of his death last April, I think I may claim to have been one of his friends. We always had much in common. Even in the last few months of his existence, when he was suffering from a painful disease, he possessed the enthusiasm of a boy, took the keenest interest in all the problems of the present day, and no one better than he sympathised with the aspirations of youth.

I remember that first day in the office extremely well because so venerable did John Mackenzie look that I assumed very naturally I was sitting at the same table as the head of my department, and I was naturally very interested in him. It was not until after some days had elapsed that I learnt that the man I had idealised as a chief was only a man writer who was then engaged by the hour. His life up to that point had not been an uneventful one. He was born at Hartley Wintney in Hampshire, on the 22nd May, 1822. When still quite a young man he sailed for New Zealand, with the intention of farming, and had made many preparations to settle down in Nelson, when a severe earthquake so alarmed him and others that they took the first opportunity to leave for places "where the earth did not shake like that."

The provinces of New Zealand were then governed by a superintendent who gathered around him men of intelligence to assist him in the general work of surveying, planning and letting the then free lands of New Zealand. Into his office Mr. Mackenzie entered and worked under the superintendent. His occupation in the Land Office brought him into the society of the early settlers, men of reputed courage and endurance. Many ideas were then in the air as to the future government of the Colony, and upon this subject Mackenzie had opportunities for both speaking and writing. Enthusiastic Liberal as he was all his days, he richly enjoyed the opportunity of applying his principles in a new country.

Private affairs caused him, however, in 1862, to return to England, and he left New Zealand with intense regret. He entered the Post

Office Savings Bank soon after his arrival in this country, and served under Mr. Milliken, the first controller. There he remained in a humble position, but esteemed and beloved by all his colleagues, until December, 1896, when he retired. He died at Sutton on the 6th April, 1901, in his 79th year. A well-known utterance, referring to a great character, was often adapted to meet Mackenzie's case. It was often said of him that "nobody could be so old as he looked." At 55 he was certainly prematurely white, but you had only to talk to him a few minutes to realise how young he was in spirit. And to a youngster like myself, it was, in my early official days, a great



MR. J. MACKENZIE.

benefit to be brought closely in contact with a man who had strong beliefs and unbounded enthusiasm. I owe John Mackenzie much for his sympathy with me in those days, and for the helping hand which he was always ready to give to those who, like himself, were enthusiastic in the cause of progress. He held a position in the service the stationariness of which was calculated to make him an inveterate pessimist. But I never once saw him depressed or wanting in faith in the great possibilities of human life. And this was true of him until the hour when he left us. E. B.

The Postal Employees' Travel Association.

THIS Association has again been active during the summer months in enabling many Post Office servants to obtain reduced fares for themselves and families to different holiday resorts. We notice, too, that like the *Times* and *Daily Mail*, the Association wanders outside its own special sphere, and offers to postal servants an edition of Charles Dickens' works, comprising 25 volumes, at a reduced price. The edition includes the *Life of Charles Dickens* and the *Dickens' Dictionary*, giving a complete key to the characters and incidents. The illustrations are by Landseer, Leech, Cruikshank, "Phiz," Frith, Tenniel, Cattermole, and others. Small monthly instalments are

among the privileges offered. The Association is also entering into an arrangement with the *Daily News* to offer the *Waverley Novels* less 10 per cent. on the prices offered to the public, and with the option of monthly instalments. All information can be obtained from the Secretary, 49, Newgate Street.

Nearly 400 ladies and gentlemen from the numerous branches of the Postal and Telegraph Services accepted the invitation of the Association to a musical evening on the saloon steamer "Queen Elizabeth," which was given by that Association on Friday, July 19th. The weather was all that could be desired, and a most enjoyable "run" was made from Blackfriars Pier to Richmond Lock and back. Mr. C. S. Keen (C.T.O.) acted as the Hon. Sec., the stewards being Messrs. A. W. North, F. Birder, and F. Tallant.

The Children's Country Holidays Fund.

THE following is a statement of the amounts collected in the Post Office for this Fund for the present year. The excellent total, which is considerably in excess of any previous record, is a sure token that the Post Office maintains unflinching interest in this thoroughly deserving charity:—

OFFICE.			OFFICE.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Secretary's and Solicitor's			Amount brought forward	290	13 0
Office	15	0 6	District Offices, London		
Registry	2	4 6	(continued) :—		
Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Adams	0	10 0	Northern	11	17 0
Accountant General's Office,			Western	16	18 0
Male Staff	15	12 8	North Western	25	7 6
Postal Order Branch ...	9	16 1	West Central	9	17 6
Clearing House Branch ...	5	4 6	Paddington	41	15 4
Savings Bank, Men's Staff.	15	17 2	Battersea	7	11 11
do. Women's Staff	23	7 6	Norwood	8	4 10
Returned Letter Office ...	3	5 3	Provincial Surveyor's De-		
London Postal Service,			partment :—		
Controller's Office	11	18 10	North Eastern	1	3 0
*Inland, East Central and			North Western	1	9 0
Branch Offices	35	0 0	North Wales	1	3 6
Money Order Office	5	14 3	South Wales	1	17 6
Medical Department	0	14 6	North Midland	1	1 0
Postal Stores	4	8 8	South Midland	1	5 0
Controller of Telegraph			South Eastern	1	10 6
Stores Department, Con-			South Western	1	7 0
troller's Office	3	3 9	Western	1	13 0
General Factory	3	2 6	Eastern	1	2 6
Instrument Factory	4	7 0	Northern Scotland ...	0	13 9
Central Telegraph Office ...	37	10 11	Midland Scotland ...	0	10 0
Engineer-in-Chief's Office..	3	15 0	Southern Scotland ...	0	12 6
District Offices, London :—			Northern Ireland ...	0	10 0
South Western	36	19 11	Southern Ireland ...	0	15 0
South Eastern	24	2 0	"X"	0	5 0
Eastern	28	17 6	"Derby"	0	1 0
Carried forward	£290	13 0	Total	£429	4 4

Any information concerning this Fund can be obtained from Mr. C. H. Bundy, Secretary's Office, G.P.O.

* Collection not yet completed.

Odds and Ends.

THE announcement that the Postmasters-General of New Zealand and the Cape Colony have been appointed K.C.M.G.'s has given keen satisfaction in Post Office circles. *St. Martin's-le-Grand* offers hearty congratulations to Sir J. G. Ward and Sir Somerset R. French.

* * *

WE much regret to record the death, on the 24th June last, of William Sydney Charteris Bey, Sub-Director General of the Egyptian Post Office. Charteris Bey, who had filled the position of Sub-Director General since 1886, was but 41 years of age at the time of his decease. His portrait is given in our fourth volume at page 403.

* * *

MR. V. HUSSEY WALSH, private secretary to the Postmaster-General, contributes an article to the September number of the *Empire Review*, entitled, "The Post Office from Within."

* * *

THE postmaster of a town in Scotland forwards to us an envelope which he received addressed as follows :—

Mr. ———,

Postmaster,

Dumpherlmand.

The Sorting Branch guessed right first time ! Can our readers do the same ?

* * *

IN the *Derry Standard* of the 23rd August, we read in an article concerning Portnoo, a place on the coast of Donegal, that "there is a postal and telegraph office in the immediate vicinity of the hotel which is provided with hot, cold, and shower baths." It is presumed that this is the latest departmental advance, and should go far to satisfy Mr. Baines' ideas as to the possibilities of the country post office. We congratulate Lord Londonderry on his enterprise.

* * *

MR. ALEX. FRASER, who succeeds Mr. R. S. Smyth as Postmaster of Londonderry, was entertained, before he left the Isle of Man, where he had been postmaster for two years, at a banquet by a number of gentlemen connected with the island. He also received a handsome testimonial from his colleagues in the local post offices ; indeed, few men have served so short a period in one place and earned so much esteem and respect as has been the case with Mr. Fraser in the Isle of Man.

[NOTE.—It should be clearly understood that these lists are unofficial; but every effort is made to render them accurate and complete.]

Promotions.

LONDON.

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
S.O.	Leak, C. R. ...	Clk., 2nd Cl., Supply Est.	Stg. Clk., Leicester, '89, Clk., 3rd Cl., S.O., '94
" Regy.	Blake, A. C. ...	1st Clk. Asst. ...	Sr., S.B., '76; Pr.-Kr., S.O., '82; 2nd Cl., '93
" "	Smeaton, J. M. .	" ...	Pr.-Kr., M.O.O., '78; S.O., '84; 2nd Cl., '94
" "	Stubbs, S. R. ...	" ...	Tel., C.T.O., '80; Pr.-Kr., S.O., '85; 2nd Cl., '94
" "	Marshall, W. ...	" ...	Sr., S.B., '81; Pr.-Kr., S.O., '88; 2nd Cl., '97
A.G.D.	Bowie, A. G. ...	Acct.	1870; Exr., '72; Asst. Acct., '98
"	Williams, Ernest	Exr.	Clk., 2nd Div., '81; Hr. Gr., '93
"	Gapes, A. G. ...	"	Clk., 2nd Div., '81; Hr. Gr., '93
"	Williams, Edwin.	"	Clk., 2nd Div., '81; Hr. Gr., '93
"	Barratt, T. ...	"	Clk., 2nd Div., '82; Hr. Gr., '93
"	Hitchcock, G. ...	Asst. Over. ...	1870; Tr., '75
" P.O.B.	Miss S. A. M. Hawkins	Asst. Super. ...	Clk., '82; 1st Cl., '86; Prin. Clk., '96
" "	" A. E. Culley	"	Clk., '82; 1st Cl., '90; Prin. Clk., '98
" "	" F. M. G. Fry	Prin. Clk. ...	S.B., '76; P.O.B., '91; 1st Cl., '83
" "	" E. Hamilton	"	Clk., '82; 1st Cl., '91
" "	" E. J. Cook .	"	Clk., '84; 1st Cl., '95
" "	" M. Smith...	"	Clk., '84; 1st Cl., '95
" "	" L. Higham.	Clk., 1st Cl. ...	1891
" "	" S. Walker...	"	1892
" "	" M. B. ...	"	Sr., S.B., '90; Clk., P.O.B., '92
" "	" Murby	"	1892
" "	" K. G. Watson	"	1892
" "	" E. M. W. Stanfield	"	1892
" "	" A. J. D. Crawford	"	1892
C.T.O.	Trenam, E. ...	Depy. Cont. ...	M.T. Co., '62; G.P.O., '70. Ch. Super., T., Manchester, '92; Traffic Manager, S.O., '90
"	Maclachlan, J. M.	Asst. Cont. ...	1870; Super., 87
"	Stonley, C. ...	Super., Hr. Gr. ...	E.T. Co., '67; G.P.O., '70; Super., '93

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
C.T.O.	Treby, S. J. ...	Super., Lt. Gr. ...	M.T. Co., '63; G.P.O., '70; Asst. Super., '85
"	Peal, H. R. ...	Asst. Super.	M.T. Co., '64; G.P.O., '70; Asst. Super., 2nd Cl., '92
"	Howard, B. T. P.	" 2nd Cl.	1874; Sen. Tel., '91
"	Miles, F. W. ...	Over. and Sen. Tel.	1877
"	Smith, H....	"	1877
E. in C.O.	Pomeroy, H. ...	Suptg. Engr., " Hr. Scale	E.T. Co., '58; G.P.O., '70; Suptg. Engr., '78
"	Burge, C. A. ...	Suptg. Engr., Provs.	Tel., Belfast, '71; Relay Clk., E. in C.O., '78; Insp., '82; Asst. Sup. Engr., '92
"	Collins, L....	" "	E.T. Co., '62; G.P.O., '70; Asst. Sup. Engr., '91
"	Sheridan, J. ...	Asst. Suptg. Engr., Provs.	M.T. Co., '67; G.P.O., '70; Senr. Clk., '82; Insp., '85; Engr., 1st Cl., '92
"	Sinnott, J. ...	Engr., 1st Cl. ...	Tel., Dublin, '84; E. in C.O., '91; Engr., '96
"	Elliott, J. R. M.	" "	Tel., N'wcastle-on-Tyne, '85; Relay Clk., E. in C.O., '91; Engr., '96
"	Wiggins, F. ...	" 2nd Cl. ...	Tel., C.T.O., '88; Jr. Clk., E. in C.O., '92
"	France, G. S. ...	" "	Tel., Liverpool, '87; Jr. Clk., E. in C.O., '91
"	Newlands, T. H.	" "	Tel., Edinburgh, '81; Relay Clk., E. in C.O., '96
L.P.S., C.O. ...	Logan, J. M. ...	Clk., 3rd Cl.	S.C. & T., Londonderry, '91; Clk., E.D.O., '00
" "	Baskerville, J. W.	" "	Clk., 2nd Div., S.B., '97; Jr. Clk., P.S.D., '01
" "	Gardner, F. H. .	Over.	1883; Sr., '86
" "	Stewart, A. ...	"	1882; Sr., '84
" Cir. Off.	Rogers, C. S. ...	Asst. Super.	1870; Over., '92; Insp., '93
" "	Reynolds, A. ...	Over.	1885; Sr., '89
" "	Gray, S.	"	1877; Sr., '81
" "	Walter, F. J. ...	"	1877; Sr., '81
" "	Penfold, A. F....	"	1877; Sr., '81
" E.C.	Miss A. Woodhatch	Super., 3rd Cl. ...	1873; Super., 4th Cl., '98
" "	" C. E. Morrish	" 4th Cl. ...	1882
" W.C.	Newman, W. E.	Over.	1882; Sr., '85
" E.	Shepherd, F. W.	Over. and Sen. Tel.	1880
" S.E.	Lancaster, J. ...	" "	1879
" "	Marsh, J. C. ...	Over.	Pn., '81; Hd. Pn., '98
" "	Blackman, A.W.	"	1873; Hd. Pn., '93

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
L.P.S., N'rwood	Churley, L. T....	Asst. Super.	Boy Sorter, '74; Tr., R.A.G.O., '77; Clk., F.B., L.P.S., '85; Clk., E.D.O., '88; N.D.O., '90
„ S.W. ...	Harrison, F. J. .	Over.	Pn., '77; Asst. Hd. Pn., '93; Hd. Pn., '98
„ „ ...	Miss E. S. Sayer	Super., 3rd Cl. ...	1881; Super., 4th Cl., '98
„ W. ...	Weller, W. E. ...	Over.	Pn., '80; Asst. Hd. Pn., '94; Hd. Pn., '98
„ „ ...	Russell, F. ...	„	1879; Sr., '84
„ „ ...	Tucker, H. C....	„	1880; Sr., '86
„ N.W....	May, E. F. ...	Insp.	1872; Over., 2nd Cl., '85; 1st Cl., '91
„ „ ...	Vaughan, E. ...	Over.	1882; Sr., '85
R.L.O. ...	Hawkins, P. B. .	Clk.	Clk., 2nd Div., S.B., '98
S.B.D. ...	O'Moloney, H.A.	Prin. Clk.	1863; 3rd Cl., '66; Asst. Prin. Clk., '92
„ ...	Nash, C. F ...	Asst. Prin. Clk. ..	Boy Clk., '70; Est., '71; Hr. Gr., '90; Clk., 1st Cl., '97
„ ...	Brooks, G. L. ...	„ „	Boy Clk., '72; Est., '73; Hr. Gr., '90; Clk., 1st Cl., '97
„ ...	Donaldson, C. J.	Clk., 1st Cl.	Boy Clk., '72; Est., '75; Hr. Gr., '94
„ ...	Moran, W. L. ...	„ „	Boy Clk., '74; Est., '75; Hr. Gr., '94
„ ...	Fry, H. A. ...	Asst. Insp.	Pr. Sr., 1871
„ ...	Miss E. Burgess.	Prin. Clk.	1885; 1st Cl., '95
„ ...	„ M. R. Hawke	Clk., 1st Cl.	1890
Sur.'s Dept.	Adams, F. E. ...	Sur.	Boy Clk., S.B., '70; Clk., '71; Sur. Clk., '77; Asst. Sur., '91; Pmr., Shr'wsbury, '92; Portsmouth, '96
„ ...	Ling, T. R. ...	Asst. Sur., 1st Cl. .	Boy Clk., S.B., '73; Clk., '75; Sur. Clk., '92
„ ...	Harvey, J. S. ...	„ „	Stg. Clk., Glasgow, '81; Sur. Clk., '92
„ ...	King, T. H. ...	„ 2nd Cl.	Clk., 2nd Div., A.G.D., '93; Clk., R.L.O., '96

PROVINCES—ENGLAND and WALES.

Bath	Church, F. ...	Clk.	1877
Birmingham ...	Roberts, B. H....	Insp. in Charge ...	S.C. & T., Newton Abbot, '82; B'ham, '85; Asst. Insp., '91; Insp., '92
„ ...	Reynolds, J. W.	Insp.	S.C. & T., '86; Asst. Insp., '94
Bolton	Walmsley, T. ...	Clk. (P.)	1885
Bournemouth ...	Light, A. J. ...	Clk.	1887
Bradford	Benn, A. ...	Asst. Super (P.) ...	1881; Clk., '98

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
Bradford ...	Maw, C. W. ...	Clk. (P.)... ..	1882
" ...	Frank, T. ...	Asst. Super. (T.) ...	1872; Clk., '96
" ...	Chew, J. E. ...	Clk. (T.)	M.T. Co., '68; G.P.O., Tadmorden, '70; Brad- ford, '74
Bristol ...	Manning, W.H.C.	Asst. Super. (T.)...	1871; Clk., '92
" ...	Davies, W. W....	Clk. (T.)	1874
" ...	Attwell, H. A. ...	"	1874
Cambridge ...	Costigan, C. E.	Asst. Super. (T.)...	1881; Clk., '98
Canterbury ...	Kemp, W. ...	Ch. Clk.... ..	1875; Clk., '91
" ...	Cullen, S....	Clk.	1886
Carmarthen ...	Wilkins, W. J....	Ch. Clk.... ..	1882; Clk. '94
" ...	Evans, D. ...	Clk.	1885
Coventry ...	Sirett, A. ...	Asst. Super.	S.C. & T., '88; Clk. (P.), Oxford, '00
Crewe ...	Vaughan, J. ...	Ch. Clk.... ..	1871; S.C. & T., '74; Clk., '89; Asst. Super., '94
Croydon ...	Taylor, G. ...	Clk.	1883
Devizes ...	Hendy, A. J. ...	"	S.C. & T., Esher, '87; Devizes, '98
Dover ...	Lewin, F....	Ch. Clk.... ..	S.C. & T., '78; Clk., Ramsgate, '91; Asst. Super. (P.), Brighton, '99
Exeter ...	Harvey, A. E. ...	Asst. Super. (T.) ...	E.T. Co., '66; G.P.O., '70; Clk., '91
" ...	Osment, J. E. ...	Clk. (T.)	1870
" ...	Bott, H. ...	" "	1870
Grimsby ...	Walker, G. ...	" "	1887
Guildford ...	Steddy, W. E....	Asst. Super.	1885; Clk., '97
" ...	Cooke, W. M....	Clk.	1887
" ...	Doubell, C. ...	"	1887
Halifax ...	Shaw, E. ...	" (P.)	1876
Hayward's Hth.	Harriyott, E. S.	"	1887
Hereford ...	Tildesley, E. ...	"	S.C. & T., Cardiff, '89
Lincoln ...	Owston, W. S....	" (P.)	1886
Maidstone ...	Howard, N. G.	"	1890
Manchester ...	Birch, W....	Asst. Super., 1st Cl. (P.)	1863; Sr., '68; Clk., '85; Asst. Super., 2nd Cl., '96
" ...	Wilkinson, R. S.	" 2nd Cl. (P.)	1877; Clk., '94
" ...	Mayoh, J. W. ...	Clk. (P.)	1885
" ...	Franklin, C. ...	Insp.	Pn., '70; Stg. Clk., '90; Asst. Insp., '95
" ...	Miss E. Rickard	Asst. Super.	1877
Margate ...	Hargreaves, J.H.	Clk.	S.C. & T., Walsall, '84; Margate, '87
" ...	Kemp, R. K. ...	"	S.C. & T., Crawley, '91; Margate, '92
Middlesborough	Coulson, H. ...	"	1882
Northampton ...	Hight, J. B. ...	"	1872; Stg. Clk., '75
Nottingham ...	Smith, G. H. ...	Asst. Super. (P.) ...	1877; Clk., '92
" ...	Green, J. ...	Clk. (P.)	1883
Oxford ...	Hadland, R. J.	" "	1882; S.C. & T., '86

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
Plymouth	Stribling, L. J.	Clk. (P.)	1885
Reading	Howse, C. H.	Super. (T.)	S.C. & T., '80; Ch. Clk., Slough, '91
Rugby	Daniels, G. J.	Clk.	1882
Southampton	James, A. G.	Asst. Super. (T.)	E.T. Co., '63; G.P.O., '70; Clk., '91
"	Long, E.	Clk. (T.)	1872
Stockport	Heginbotham, F.	Clk.	1886; S.C. & T., '89
Swansea	Orrin, F. G.	Asst. Super. (P.)	1882; Clk., '91
"	Tucker, P. H.	Clk. (P.)	1884
Truro	Saunders, J. A.	Ch. Clk.	S.C. & T., '83; Clk. (P.), Plymouth, '00
"	Crispin, W.	Clk.	1887
Windsor	Jackson, S. J.	Ch. Clk.	1883; Clk., '91
Woking	Beattie, H.	Clk.	1886
"	Player, J.	"	1889
"	Cockerell, H. E.	"	1891

IRELAND.

Belfast	McKibbin, R.	Asst. Super., 2nd Cl. (P.)	1878; Clk., '91
"	Campbell, W. H.	Clk. (P.)	1887
"	Yaw, J.	" "	1887
"	McCrudden, J. E.	" "	1888
"	Anderson, W. E.	" "	1890
"	Donnelly, J.	Asst. Super., 2nd Cl. (T.)	1870; Clk., '91
"	Gallagher, J. F.	Clk. "	1871
Dublin, S.O.	Clarke, J. H.	Asst. Storekr.	S.C. & T., '93
"	Mahon, W.	Storeman, 1st Cl.	" '94
"	Phelan, T.	" "	'96
" A.O.	Browne, E. M.	Book-kr.	Clk., 2nd Div., '83; Hr. Gr., '95
" Stg. Off.	Dunham, T.	Asst. Super., 1st Cl.	1871; Mail Asst., S.O., '75
"	Downs, J. W.	" " "	1870; " '83
"	Lockington, J.	" " "	Dundalk, '73; Belfast, '80; Clk. (T.), London- derry, '85, Asst. Super., '91, Ch. Clk., '99
"	Rankin, W. S.	Clk.	1885
"	Ewing, A. J.	"	1887
"	Flood, J. T.	"	1890
"	Gaynor, J. J.	"	1890
"	Gray, W. F.	"	1892
" Tel. Off.	Mitchell, J.	Asst. Super., 1st Cl.	E.T. Co., '67; G.P.O., '70; Asst. Super., '91
"	Delahunty, T.	" " 2nd Cl.	1871; Clk., '98
"	Pedian, L.	Clk.	Portlaw Rly. Stn., '73; Dublin, '78
"	Cornwall, G. O.	"	Castlebar, '76; Dublin '81
"	Kenny, R. D.	"	1883
"	Moran, J.	"	1883
"	Mulholland, J. F.	"	1885

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
Dublin, Tel. Off.	Miss R. E. Murphy	Asst. Super.	1871
" "	" J. H. Hussey	" "	1871
" "	" M. A. Joy...	" "	1870
" "	" F. E. Morton-Day	" "	1870
Wexford	Carbery, M. ...	Clk.	1889

SCOTLAND.

Dundee	Sutherland, R....	Asst. Super. (T.) ...	1871; Clk., '99
Edinburgh, Stg. Off.	Massie, G. ...	" " 1st Cl.	1873; Clk., '91; Asst. Super., '92
" "	Macpherson, A.	" " 2nd Cl.	1868; Clk., '91
" "	Hunter, W. ...	" " "	1859; Retr., '73; Supg. Retr., '95
" "	Buchanan, T. ...	" " "	1876; Clk., '95
" "	Jeffrey, J. ...	" " "	1873; " '96
" "	Howden, C. W.	Clk.	1874; Retr., '86
" "	Kay, J. ...	"	1877; Ctrman, A.O., '99
" "	McPherson, D....	"	1888
" "	Simons, H. ...	"	1887
" Tel. Off.	Prescott, J. N....	"	1880
" "	Fisher, E. H. ...	"	1881
" "	Phillips, R. J. ...	"	1881
Glasgow	Watt, D. R. ...	Asst. Super., 2nd Cl. (P.)	1878; Clk., '90
"	Wallace, J. H....	Clk. (P.)	1870; S.C. & T., '82
"	McDonald, W. L.	" (T.)	1878
Inverness ...	Kennedy, J. G.	Ch. Clk.	1882; Clk., '91; Asst. Super., '94
"	Gibson, J....	Asst. Super. (P.) ...	1877; Clk., '94
"	Macrae, J. ...	Clk. (P.)	Tel., '76
Kirkwall ...	Firth, J. ...	"	1882

Retirements.

LONDON.

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
A.G.D.	Miss H. Spence	Clk., 2nd Cl.	1886
"	* " E. M. Charlesworth	Sr.	1896
C.T.O.	Robinson, G. ...	Asst. Super., 2nd Cl.	Tel., Scarboro', '70; Sheffield, '77; C.T.O., '81; Sen. Tel., '94; Asst. Super., '99
"	Ryan, J.	Over. & Sen. Tel.	Sub. Tel. Co., '67; G.P.O., '89; Sen. Tel., '90
"	Foster, G.	Tel.	1888
"	Miss C. Errington	Asst. Super., Hr. Gr.	E.T. Co., '66; G.P.O., '70
"	" A. E. Jackson	Tel.	1887
"	" A. Chiles ...	"	1888
"	* " N. E. Mylam	"	1899
E.-in-C.O. ...	Louth, W. ...	Suptg. Engr.	E.T. Co., '53; G.P.O., '70; Super. Engr., '78
L.P.S., Circ. Off.	Richards, D. ...	Insp.	1866; Sr., '70; Asst. Over., '78; Insp. of Messgrs., '80; Over., '85; Insp., '93
" "	Tong, W. S. ...	Over.	1861; Sr., '65; Over., '96
" "	Fugeman, W. G.	Sr.	1860; Sr., '65
" "	Jenkins, H. M. .	"	1885
" "	* Evans, C. W. ...	"	1896
" "	* Cross, H. W. ...	"	1897
" E.C.	Crawley, J. ...	C.C. & T. ...	1870
" "	Miss G. A. Crabb	Super., Cl. II. ...	1870; Asst. Super., '90; Super., Cl. IV., '93; Cl. III., '96; Cl. II., '98
" "	" E. L. C. Regnarte	" Cl. IV. ...	1873; Asst. Super., '88; Super., Cl. IV., '93
" W.C.	Naylor, I.	Pmr.	Clk., Cir. Off., '65; N.D.O., '67; Asst. Super., Padd., '81; Ch. Clk., '84; Pmr., Wands., '90; W.C., '95
" W.	Miss A. Cross ...	C.C. & T. ...	1873
" "	* " E. P. Bellingham	"	S.C. & T., Jersey, '95; C.C. & T., W., '99
" Norw.	" E. F. Whitfield	"	1888
" Padd.	" A. Freestone	Super., Cl. III. ...	L. & P. Tel. Co., '67; G.P.O., '70; Super., '90
S.B.	Bridge, J. C. E..	Prin. Clk.	Clk., '68; 2nd Cl., '73; 1st Cl., '81; Asst. Prin. Clk., '92; Prin. Clk., '98
"	Weeks, M. ...	Asst. Prin. Clk. ...	Clk. C.D., '68; S.B., '70; 2nd Cl., '75; 1st Cl., '93; Asst. Prin. Clk., '97

* Awarded a Gratuity.

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
S.B.	*Miss E. Gallico .	Ck.	1894
"	* " K. E. Huxham	"	1896
"	" F.E.M. Ingle	Sr.	1885
Sur. Dep. ...	Roe, W. J. ...	Sur.	Sur. Sta. Ck., '61; Ck., S.B., '67; Sur. Ck., '70; 1st Cl., '80; Asst. Sur., '83; Sur., '91

PROVINCES—ENGLAND and WALES.

Ashton-under-Lyne	Lascelles, W. ...	Pmr.	Ck., Darlington, '57; Pmr., Chorley, '88; Ashton-under-Lyne, '91
Birkenhead ...	Manley, W. ...	Ch. Ck....	E.T. Co., '67; G.P.O., '70; Ck., '81; Asst. Super., '91; Ch. Ck., '98
" ...	Wood, N. M. ...	S.C. & T. ...	1870; S.C. & T., '82
Birmingham ...	Banham, J. D....	"	1879
" ...	*Godfree, R. J....	"	1898
" ...	*Campbell, J. R..	"	1900
" ...	Whiston, J. ...	Insp.-in-Chge. ...	Sr., '61; Asst. Insp., '82; Insp.-in-Chge., '82
Boscombe ...	Saturley, S. J....	Sub. Pmr. ...	Sr., '70; Ck., Taunton, '84; Sub.-Pmr., Boscombe, '98
Bristol	Miss E. Hodgson	Asst. Super. (T.)...	Tel., '77; Asst. Super., '98
Chester	Boulter, G. ...	Ch. Ck....	Ck., '65; Ch. Ck., '77
Croydon	Colbron, B. ...	Pmr.	Ck., Brighton, '56; Sur. Sta. Ck., '60; Pmr., Staplehurst, '67; Swindon, '71; Kingston-on-Thames, '85; Croydon, '92
Derby	Kidger, C. ...	S.C. & T. ...	1882
Durham	Bennett, J. ...	Pmr.	Ck., Nottingham, '64; Super., '88; Pmr., Wellington, Salop, '91; Durham, '95
Exeter	Terrill, T. L. ...	Asst. Super. ...	E.T. Co., '62; G.P.O., '70; Ck., '91; Asst. Super., '95
"	Chapman, C. H.	Ck.	G.W.R. Co., '62; E.T. Co., '65; G.P.O., Exeter, '70; Ck., '91

* Awarded a Gratuity.

OFFICE	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
Hastings	Johnston, R. W.	Pmr.	Clk., C.D., '61; Met. Dists., '67; Asst. Super., C.D., '68; Cont. Spec. Arrgts. Bch., '70; Pmr., E.C., '78; N.W., '82; Manchester, '88; Pensioned, '92; recalled to duty as Pmr., Hastings, '92
Horsham...	*Miss K. M. Hull	S.C. & T.	1898
Ilford ...	*" F. M. Torry	"	1897
Lancaster	Watterson, H.H.	Pmr.	Pmr., Lymington, '67; Llandudno, '92; Lancaster, '97
Leeds ...	Bamforth, J. ...	S.C. & T.	1883; S.C. & T., '90
" ...	Miss A. E.	"	1889
	Mountain		
Leicester	*Howe, E. A. ...	"	1897
Liverpool	Jones, S. ...	Super. (T.)	M.T. Co., '60; G.P.O., '70; Asst. Super., 2nd Cl., '81; 1st Cl., '90; Super, '98
"	*Roberts, E. J. ...	S.C. & T.	1898
"	*Miss A. Yates ...	"	1897
Manchester	Salmon, J. ...	Asst. Super., 2nd Cl.	Kilkenny, '74; Stg. Clk., Manchester, '78; Clk., '93; Asst. Super., '98
"	Donovan, J. ...	Clk. (T.)	E.T. Co., '67; G.P.O., '70; Clk., '98
"	Lomas, R. ...	S.C. & T.	M.T. Co., '62; G.P.O., '70
"	Gorman, R. A. .	"	1869
"	*Morgan, M. J....	"	1897
"	Miss E. Horrocks	Asst. Super.	1874; Asst. Super., '88
Mansfield	*" M. L. Harrison	S.C. & T.	1899
Newport, I. W.	Le Messurier, A. N.	Pmr.	S.C. & T., '58; Clk., '66; Ch. Clk., Jersey, '72; Pmr., Newport, '79
Nottingham	Francis, H. W..	Asst. Super. (P.) ...	Tel., '74; Stg. Clk., '75; 1st Cl., '85; Asst. Super., '91
"	Huthwaite, C. H.	S.C. & T.	1891
"	*Rylatt, H. ...	"	1899
Oldham ...	Parsons, C. A....	"	Bolton, '80; Oldham, '89
Scarborough	Pagett, D. ...	Pmr.	1856; S.C. & T., '59; Clk., Wolverhampton, '71; Pmr., Godalming, '81; Rotherham, '87; Scarborough, '98
Sheffield ...	Booth, J. D. ...	S.C. & T.	1891
Southampton	Miss E. A. Burt.	"	1885
Southport	*Popham, A. J.W.	"	1892
"	Miss J. Carter ...	"	1891
Sunderland	" M. V. Toft.	"	1890

* Awarded a Gratuity.

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
TunbridgeWells	Field, F.	Ck.	S.C. & T., '65; Ck., '87
West Bromwich	*Miss L. E. Reed.	S.C. & T.	1893
Wolverhampton	Davis, G. J.	Pmr.	Ck., Warrington, '58; Birkenhead, '61; Ch. Ck., '75; Pmr., Ashton-under-Lyne, '81; Weymouth, '87; Peterborough, '92; Wolverhampton, '97

IRELAND.

Buttevant	*Miss E. Costello.	Pms.	1886
Cork	Lawless, J.	S.C. & T.	Queenstown, '71; Cork, '73
Dublin	Freeman, W.	Ck. (T.)	E.T. Co., '64; G.P.O., Dublin, '70; Ck., '92
"	Moffett, P. J.	S.C. & T.	E.T. Co., '54; G.P.O., Waterford, '70; Dublin, '74
"	Mackie, W.	"	M.T. Co., '56; G.P.O., '70
"	Gardner, W. H.	"	1862; Sr., '69
"	O'Rorke, L. E.	"	1891
"	Miss N. E. Bell	"	M.T. Co., '64; G.P.O., '70
"	" V.M. Cuthbert	"	M.T. Co., '67; G.P.O., '70
"	" C.M. Kennan	"	1870
"	" K. Kennedy.	"	1870
Queenstown	Reilly, H.	"	1871

SCOTLAND.

Anstruther	Peebles, J. B.	S.C. & T.	1881
Cupar	Lang, E.	Pmr.	M.T. Co., '61; G.P.O., Glasgow, '70; Pmr., Cupar, '82
Dundee	*Miss I. E. Mudie	S.C. & T.	1900
Edinburgh, A.O.	Young, G. W.	Ck., 1st Class	Prob., '65; Est., '68; Ck., 3rd Class, '74; Ck., Lr. Div., '78; 1st Cl., '92

* Awarded a Gratuity.

Deaths.

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
A.G.D. ...	Beard, E. ...	Clk., 2nd Div., Hr. Gr. ...	Boy Clk., M.O.O.; Clk., 2nd Div., A.G.D., '83; Hr. Gr., '93
" ...	Price, R. S. ...	Tr. ...	BoySr., N.D.O., '74; Pn., '76; Tr., R.A.G.O., '80
" P.O.B.	Miss E. Guy ...	Sr. ...	1885
" " "	" E. A. Smith ...	" ...	1891
C.T.O. ...	Askins, A. ...	Asst. Con. ...	E.T. Co., '57; G.P.O., '70; Asst. Cont., '98
" ...	Bullock, E. J. ...	Asst. Super., Hr. Gr. ...	1870; Asst. Super., '92
" ...	Clapham, W. G. ...	Tel. ...	1889
" ...	*Hungerford, A.M. ...	" ...	1890
" ...	*Plumridge, G. E. ...	" ...	S.C. & T., Wallingford, '95; Tel., C.T.O., '97
" ...	*Sambells, W. J. ...	" ...	S.C. & T., Maidstone, '95; Tel., C.T.O., '98
L.P.S., Cir. Off.	Bambrick, S. ...	Sr. ...	1861
" "	Coldham, H. W. ...	" ...	1885; Sr., '87
" "	Crux, A. E. ...	" ...	1890
" "	Cowley, F. ...	" ...	1900
" S.E. ...	McCullough, J. ...	" ...	1900
" "	*Wood, F. J. ...	" ...	1888
" E. ...	Parker, F. ...	" ...	1888
" Padd.	*Davey, G. W. P. ...	" ...	Pn., '90; Sr., '93
S.B.D. ...	Chapman, J. ...	" ...	1885
" ...	Hoyles, E. G. ...	Clk., 2nd Div. ...	1881
" ...	Clark, E. E. ...	" "	Boy Clk., S.B., '82; Clk., 2nd Div., C.E.B., '86; S.B., '87
" ...	Miss C.F.E. Livermore ...	Clk., 2nd Class ...	1875
Andover ...	Knight, H. E. S. ...	S.C. & T. ...	St. Neots, '96; Oxford, '97; Chipping Norton, '98; Andover, '00
Bath ...	Barnes, T. ...	Clk. ...	1870; Clk., '91
Birmingham ...	Miss L. Simms ...	S.C. & T. ...	1896
Chatham ...	Cooper, A. B. ...	Clk. ...	1897
Coventry ...	Band, C. ...	S.C. & T. ...	1871; Clk., '90
Gloucester ...	*Spence, A. ...	S.C. & T. ...	1893
Launceston ...	Tucker, W. G. ...	S.C. & T. ...	1892
Leeds ...	Miss A.M. Jefferey ...	" ...	1877
Manchester ...	Moore, J. F. ...	Ch. Clk. ...	1869; Clk., '74; Asst. Super., 2nd Cl., '84; 1st Cl., '85; Super., '91; Ch. Super., '92; Ch. Clk., '98
" ...	Goy, E. ...	S.C. & T. ...	1901
" ...	Miss A. Gahan ...	" ...	1874
Reading ...	Satchell, C. J. ...	" ...	1897
Rugby ...	Thompson, G. E. ...	" ...	1891

* Died while serving in South Africa.

H H

OFFICE.	NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	PREVIOUS SERVICE.
Sheffield ...	Blagg, J. W.	Clk. (T.) ...	1875; Clk., '98
Ballybrophy ...	Meehan, W.	S.C. & T. ...	1895
Belfast ...	Carothers, J.	„ ...	1887
Ayton ...	Gordon, F.	Pmr. ...	S.C. & T., Edin., '85; Pmr., Ayton, '00
Dalry ...	Alexander, W.	„ ...	1876
Edinburgh ...	Foster, J. ...	S.C. & T. ...	1885; S.C. & T., '86
Glasgow ...	Marshall, J. ...	„ ...	1883
„ ...	Dodds, R. H. ...	„ ...	1890

Postmasters Appointed.

OFFICE.	NAME.	PREVIOUS APPOINTMENTS.
Ashton-under-Lyne ...	Wright, R. W. ...	Stg. Clk. ; Clk., P., Asst. Super., 2nd Cl., 1st Cl., Newcastle-on-Tyne
Banbury	Glover, D.	Tel., Clk., Chatham ; Pmr., Woking
Belvedere Station S.O.	Nichols, W.	S.C. & T., Wantage, Canterbury
Blænau Festiniog ...	Griffith, J.	S.C. & T., Gateshead, Ross, St. Ives, Wrexham
Brackley	Edwards, P. S.	L.P.S., S.W. ; Sr., Cir. Off.
Chepstow	Sudell, A.	M.T. Co. ; S.C. & T., Clk., Black- burn ; Pmr., Droitwich
Didsbury S.O.	Scott, G. E.	Asst.
Douglas, I. of Man ...	Gibbs, W.	Clk., Rochdale ; Ch. Clk., Halifax ; Pmr., Wrexham
Dunstable	Cornaby, W.	Tel., Stg. Clk., Oxford ; Sur.Sta. Clk.
Durham	Little, H.	E.T. Co. ; G.P.O., Wick, Tel. Clk in chge. ; Pmr., Stranraer, Hawick
Grange-over-Sands, S.O.	Rickman, W. G. ...	Pn., C.C. & T., W.C.
Gravesend	Hook, F. P.	Stg. Clk., Bristol ; Ch. Clk., Lim- erick ; Pmr., Bletchley
Hastings	Douglas, W. T. ...	E.T. Co. ; U.K.T. Co. ; G.P.O., C.T.O., Asst. Super., Super. ; Pmr., Tunbridge Wells ; Worcester
Lancaster	Batho, I.	Liverpool, Sr., Asst Insp., Insp. of Pn. ; Pmr., Rhyl
Market Rasen	Miss C. A. Cocking	S.C. & T., Market Rasen
Newbury	Matty, H.	E.T. Co., S.C. & T., G.P.O., Bristol, Clk., Asst. Super., 2nd Cl., 1st Cl.
Normanton	Bull, A.	Tel., Margate ; Ch. Clk., Redhill ; Pmr., Reigate, Banbury
Northallerton	Haddy, C.	Tel., Fowey, Exeter ; Pmr., Lost- withiel, Shaftesbury
Parkstone S.O.	Lanham, T.	S.C. & T., Swindon, Southampton ; Sur. Sta. Clk.
Ponders End	Bartington, J. C. ...	Boy Sr., C.D. ; Tr., A.G.D. ; Pmr., Cowbridge
Portsmouth	Wilson, S.	Stg. Clk., York ; Clk., 2nd Cl., S.O. ; Pmr., Dover, Reading
Queen St., Cardiff ...	Tabb, T. J.	S.C. & T., Cardiff
Reading	Hibberd, C. M. ...	E.T. Co. ; G.P.O., C.T.O. ; Sur. Clk. ; Asst. Sur., 1st Cl.
Rickmansworth S.O. ...	Dark, C. A.	Pn., Stg. Clk., Gloucester ; S.C. & T., Ryde ; Pmr., Brackley
Royston	Beer, H.	S.C. & T., Clk., Asst. Super., P., Newport, Mon.
Sheringham S.O.	Cortfield, W. R. ...	S.C. & T., Ashfield ; Tel., C.T.O.
Sittingbourne	Bing, J. F.	Tel., Ch. Clk., Canterbury
Stoke-on-Trent	Bostock, W.	Clk., Ch. Clk., Wolverhampton ; Pmr., Loughborough, Colchester, Coventry
Woking	Righton, S.	Stg. Clk., Insp. of Pn. ; Asst. Super., 2 Cl., 1st Cl., Bristol ; Pmr., Penzance, Normanton

OFFICE.	NAME.	PREVIOUS APPOINTMENTS.
Athy	Hailes, R. J. ...	S.C. & T., Limerick ; Sur. Sta. Clk.
Ballymoney	Miss M. McElderry	S.C. & T., Ballymoney
Castlebar	O'Doherty, D. ...	S.C. & T., Enniskillen, Coleraine
Kilrush	Semple, D.	S.C. & T., Armagh, Liverpool ; Tel., C.T.O.
Newbridge	Croker, W.	S.C. & T., Waterford
Cupar (Fife)	Smith, J. B....	Sr., N.P.B., F.B., Over., L.P.S., Cir. Off.
Wick	Fowler, W.	Tel., Clk., Aberdeen ; Insp. Tel., N. Dist., Scotland

ABBREVIATIONS.

Acct., Accountant ; Aast., Assistant ; C.C. & T., Counter Clerk and Telegraphist ; Ch., Chief ; Cl., Class ; Clk., Clerk ; Cont., Controller ; Div., Division ; Engr., Engineer ; Exr., Examiner ; Gr., Grade ; Hd., Head ; Hr., Higher ; Insp., Inspector ; Jr., Junior ; Lr., Lower ; Offr., Officer ; Over., Overseer ; P., Postal ; Pn., Postman ; Pmr., Postmaster ; Pms., Postmistress ; Pr.-Kr., Paper-Keeper ; Prin., Principal ; Prob., Probationary ; Prov., Provinces ; Retr., Returner ; Sec., Secretary ; Sen., Senior ; S.C. & T., Sorting Clerk and Telegraphist ; Sr., Sorter ; Stg., Sorting ; Sta., Stationary ; Supply., Supplementary ; Sur., Surveyor ; Super., Superintendent or Supervisor ; Tech., Technical ; Tel., Telegraphist ; Temp., Temporary ; Tr., Tracer ; Wtg., Writing.

To our Readers.

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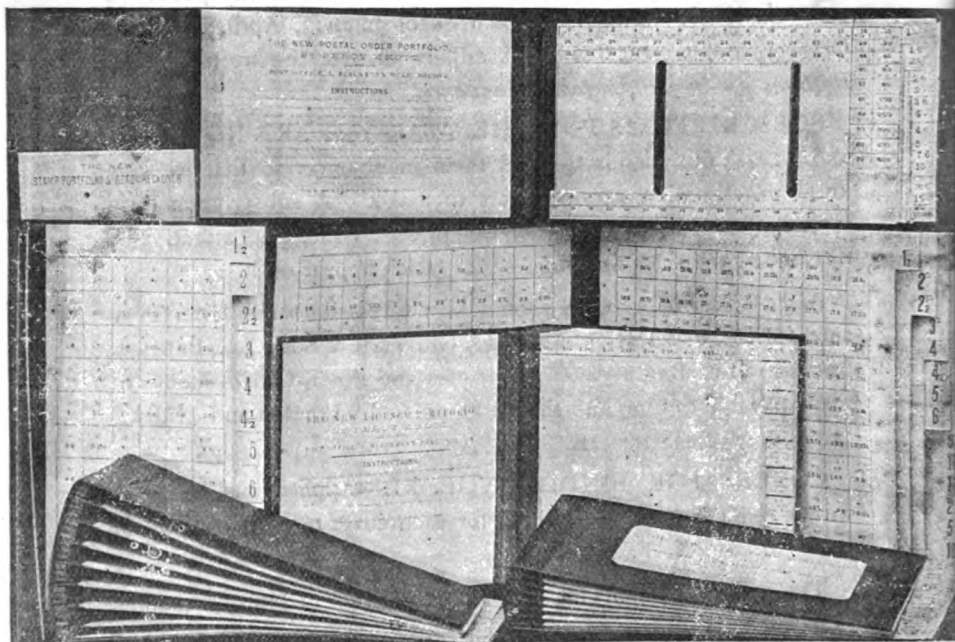
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